

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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PAGE 4

Tory plan for more women MPs

Major backs power shift to grassroots

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR is backing radical plans to give party activists a vote for the first time in Tory leadership contests in return for new candidate selection procedures designed to increase the number of women MPs.

The Prime Minister has privately indicated his support for proposals for grassroots members to form a college making up 20 per cent of the vote. Tory MPs would account for the rest.

Conservative associations would have to surrender their exclusive right to choose a candidate under the proposed rule change. Central Office would be able to impose candidates, many of whom would be women, for interviews.

The changes, which would be implemented after the General Election, would be the most dramatic to the party organisation since Sir Edward Heath won the leadership in 1965 in the first secret ballot of Tory MPs.

But they will be fiercely resisted by many Tory MPs, who will resist any reduction in their influence. They suspect that the move is more about strengthening the position of the party leader in any future contest than improving the quality of candidates. Traditionally, the party's 300,000 activists are overwhelmingly loyal to the leader of the day.

Mr Major has been deeply concerned for some time about his party's lack of women MPs. The Tories have 18, compared to Labour's 39, and have selected only 22 in winnable seats at the next election. Labour, which briefly had women-only shortlists, expects to have 90 women MPs after the election.

The reforms, which have been devised by the National Union Executive Committee, the constituency wing of the

party, have also won the support of Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. Sir Norman Fowler, a close ally of Mr Major, who is a former party chairman, is also pressing for the reforms to go ahead.

But many senior party figures have deep misgivings about changing the rules. Lord Tebbit, also a former party chairman, last night advised the party high command to drop the idea. "It is MPs who have to vote for their leader's policies night after night. They take their responsibilities for selecting the leader very seriously," he said.

"It is possible, if activists had a vote in 1990, Mrs Thatcher would not have been thrown out. But that would not have resolved her difficulties with her Cabinet. If activists had voted in 1975, Ted Heath might have won the leadership. I do not think this is a good idea. I think the system is about right at the moment. Never think it is easy to get rid of a Tory leader."

A series of working parties is examining the proposals at Conservative Central Office. There are also plans to give the activists more say in the evolution of party policy. Sir Marcus Fox, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, and its officers — the so-called men in grey suits who have the task of telling party leaders when they have lost the confidence of the parliamentary party — would be consulted. Constituency officers will also be brought into the consultation process.

A senior member of the committee said last night: "It will never happen. There is no way that the 1922 will give up total control over the leadership. This will weaken the power of the backbencher against the executive. It will be killed dead."

Conservative associations

Leading article, page 17



Liam Gallagher outside his London house after backing out of the tour

Homeless Oasis lead singer refuses to take off on US tour

By Adrian Lee

LIAM GALLAGHER, the lead singer with Oasis, hailed as Britain's best pop group since the Beatles, said yesterday that he had pulled out of the band's three-week tour of the United States. He shocked band members, including his brother Noel, by refusing to board a plane 15 minutes before they were due to leave for Chicago.

Liam Gallagher returned to the house he shares with his fiancée, Patsy Kensit, the actress, in St John's Wood, London. Speaking from there, he said he had quit the tour because the couple were about to become homeless after the sale of the £750,000 property. The rest of the band would play without him, he said, but hinted that he might fly out to rejoin them later.

"The band are going to try to do it without me. If they can't do it I guess I'll go back. I don't care about the tour. I am sick



Kensit: shares London home with Oasis singer

of living my life in hotels. I need to be happy. I've got to find a place to live."

"The house has just been sold and I'm having moving problems. We have got to be out by the weekend. I am not going around touring the US when I've got nowhere to live."

Last week Liam pulled out of a secret concert at the Royal Festival Hall, choosing in-

stead to sit in the audience, where he smoked and drank beer.

Yesterday he arrived at Heathrow with other band members two hours before flight BA 297 was due to take off. Shortly before departure he told British Airways staff that he was no longer travelling. Asked why, he said: "There's a problem at home, mate."

Minders then warned reporters not to approach the star. Dressed in a floppy white hat, white shirt, khaki shorts and trainers, he waited 20 minutes for his baggage to be unloaded from the Boeing 747 before he was driven away alone in a taxi.

Last night, Creation Records, the group's record company, said the singer was ill but had no intention of quitting. "He cannot sing because he has laryngitis."

Sibling society, page 12
Out-of-season Roses, page 15

Pakistan triumph

Pakistan won the final Test at the Oval by nine wickets, and the series 2-0, after England collapsed to 242 all out. Mushtaq Ahmed took six for 78 as Pakistan cruised home with 23 overs to spare. England have lost four series in succession against Australia and five in succession against Pakistan. Page 23

St Helens' title

St Helens clinched the inaugural Super League title with a 66-14 victory over Warrington at Knowsley Road, leaving Wigan in second place and ending their monopoly of rugby league over the past decade. It was St Helens' first championship for 21 years. Page 24

Boyle: The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80;
Australia Sch 40; Canada Frs 120;
Cyprus C11 20; Denmark Dk 1400;
Finland Frk 1700; France F 1400;
Germany Gm 450; Gibraltar Gbr 100;
Greece Gr 500; Netherlands Fl 450;
Italy I 450; Luxembourg L 60;
Malta M 350; Malta 450; Morocco
Mor 2700; Norway N 2000; Portugal
Por 350; Spain Sp 225; Sweden Skr
1450; Switzerland S Frs 400; Tunisia
Tin 2500; USA \$250.



Labour in £1m phone fundraising drive

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

LABOUR has launched an American-style telephone fundraising campaign to try to raise £1 million from grassroots supporters for the party's general election war chest.

Advertisements have gone out in the national press for a telemarketing fundraising agency which has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

A team of 70 canvassers, who will be trained in telephone sales techniques, is being recruited to run the

campaign. They are being hired by Pell & Bales, the leading telemarketing fundraisers, and will be paid £5 an hour.

The agency, which was set up by a former Labour Party official, has set a £1 million target. The move into telephone fundraising is a further departure from the traditional raffles and tin rattling at constituency fundraising functions.

It is part of an aggressive fundraising strategy set against declining income from

Continued on page 2, col 7

Equal opportunities — women join the chain gang

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

JOE ARPAIO of Arizona's Maricopa County, who revels in the title "America's toughest sheriff", has combined vindictiveness with political correctness in a bizarre new punishment: female chain gangs.

Calling himself an "equal opportunity incarcerator", Sheriff Arpaio said that, shackled at the ankles, women from his jails would start appearing on the streets of Phoenix, which covers

most of the county, next month. In the 120F heat customary for this time of year, the women will wear striped prison uniforms and walk in step to a rhythm yelled out by armed volunteers. Five days a week for six weeks at a time, they will pick up litter and paint out graffiti.

Sheriff Arpaio, the blunt and controversial hero of Arizona's get-tough law-enforcement lobby, expects an avalanche of publicity for his latest very public stunt, but foresees no obstacles that he has not already

overcome. Last year he made international headlines as the first county sheriff to reintroduce male chain gangs in the teeth of objections from civil rights leaders, who consider them a symbol of racial oppression from a bygone era. Since then he has introduced new and unusual schemes with the regularity of a public relations genius.

Facing a prison overflow, he bought army surplus tents as permanent accommodation in which temperatures have risen to 130F. Other moves

have included banning coffee, cigarettes and Playboy in men's jails, making male chain gangs bury the city's indigent dead and forming a 3,000-strong volunteer militia along the lines of the posses of the old West.

To those arguing that chain gangs may be even less appropriate for women than for men, Sheriff Arpaio replies: "I don't believe in discrimination in my jail system." Nor, apparently, do women prisoners themselves — 34 have already volunteered for chain-gang duty.

Surgeons 'were paid £1,000 for videotapes of operations'

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TWENTY-SEVEN surgeons are expected to face investigation by the General Medical Council following claims that they were paid up to £1,000 each for agreeing to let film of their patients be used for a commercial video.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, has also pledged to "pursue vigorously" any doctors or NHS trusts who may have breached the Government's own code of patient confidentiality.

Sales of the £1299 video, entitled *Everyday Operations*, were halted on Monday after the Health Department obtained an interim injunction. David Donaghy Associates, who produced the film, claimed yesterday that they were offered the footage by a medical film company.

"We were approached originally by an award-winning medical training video organisation run by medically qualified people," said Mr Donaghy. "They said they had footage that they felt was worthy of a wider audience. Together with them we sought out further footage to make a complete package of everyday operations," he said on BBC Radio's *The World at One*.

Sources close to Mr Donaghy said that the firm had paid the film company a "considerable sum", part of which had then been distributed to the 27 surgeons who cooperated in the film. "Each surgeon got up to a four figure sum," said the source. "This was probably paid back into the hospital or into research funds," he added. The surgeons were asked for a considerable amount of "paperwork" including ensuring that the patients gave their consent for the film to be "broadcast".

He said that 27 patients had been filmed in seven NHS Trusts. The video contains

extracts from more than 20 operations including brain and intimate gynaecological procedures.

Dr Stuart Horner, chairman of the British Medical Association's ethics committee said the doctors might well have to appear before the General Medical Council, but the crucial issue was one of consent. Patients would have to consent specifically to the material being used for commercial purposes, he said. "It would not surprise me if our doctors were not getting specific consent for specific purposes," said Dr Horner.

"Doctors are being placed under increasing pressure by the market-style NHS to go out and sell products... I don't think anyone should be surprised if you find they are selling the wrong products." Mr Malone said the Government wanted the 50-minute video withdrawn after complaints by patients' groups and doctors, as well as fears that NHS rules on confidentiality had been breached. The Minister said it appeared that there had been a breach of the Government's guidance. "If that is the case, I will take a very serious view of that."

The Health Department's guidelines, updated last March, say that information can be obtained and used from patients, with their consent, for research and teaching purposes, but it makes no mention of commercial uses.

Mr Malone said that he had not yet had a chance to view the video, but dismissed claims by the producers that it was intended to be educational. Such a claim for a film that contained, as he understood it, "actors simulating amputations without anaesthetic in the 19th century" was "slightly disingenuous" added Mr Malone.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 27 1996

HOME NEWS 3

Depressed water mussel fails to win sponsorship deal

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRAND image is everything in the corporate world, and the depressed water mussel plainly has not got it.

Along with the greater horseshoe bat and a ground beetle called *Anisus vorticosus*, the water mussel has every reason to be depressed. The trio are among 56 endangered species which have not attracted a single offer from British companies invited by the Department of the Environment to provide sponsorship which could prove their salvation.

In contrast, around 60 favoured species, from the water vole to the medicinal leech, are being fought over by companies from banks to

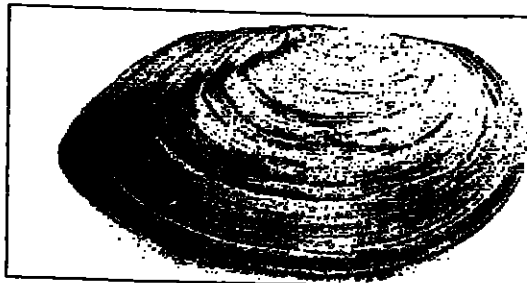


Image is not everything: the water mussel, the mouse-eared bat and the stag beetle, who are all desperately seeking a corporate backer

drug companies, the Environment Department said. The corporate sponsorship deals, in which household names such as Coca-Cola, Barclays Bank, Sainsbury's, ICI and NPI are vying for the species of their choice, could bring lowly

life forms such as the dung beetle, nail fungus and river jelly lichen a taste of the big time.

The Environment Department promised yesterday that efforts would be redoubled to find "white knights" for species whose futures

are still unspoken for. The scheme is aimed at getting private money to pay for rescue projects to save 116 of Britain's endangered animals and plant species. Companies are bidding to spend £2 million to support projects which

will ultimately boost the fortunes of native mammals, reptiles, insects, flowers, fungi and mosses. One backer is eager to spend £31,000 to boost the fortunes of the shrill carder bee, now found in about only seven sites in the South

East. In return for using the bee in promotional material, the corporate backer will be paying for restoring habitats, reintroductions and a breeding programme. Less well known species seeking the market's favour are the black

bog ant, found in only a few sodden parts of Dorset, Hampshire and Dyfed; the stag beetle, threatened by loss of the dead wood on which it thrives (hardly a recommendation to company men); and the Norfolk flapwort, a brown moss found at five sites.

Those thus far failing to attract interest include the pipistrelle bat; the mouse-eared bat; the slender green feather moss, found in one shaded site by a calcium-rich stream in Derbyshire; and the Killarney fern.

The final decision on which species will be sponsored by which firms will be made in October at a meeting with from wildlife charities, civil servants, farming organisations and landowners.

Modern maker's trademark scratched off reproduction that was catalogued as 1881

£160 replica globe fetches £4,320 at Christie's auction

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A CRAFTSMAN who makes reproduction antique globes has received the ultimate accolade, with one of his models being mistaken for the real thing by a leading auction house.

A facsimile globe that can be bought for £160 has sold at Christie's for £4,320. It was catalogued as an 1881 globe. The Dutch antiques dealer who bought it has been informed that his purchase is not authentic and he is likely to accept the offer of a refund.

James Bissell-Thomas, 36, the craftsman and owner of Greaves & Thomas, which reproduces globes dating from 1922 to 1963, is flattered, especially as he has been making them for only a few years.

He noticed the globe's photograph in Christie's catalogue, and told them that he suspected it was one of his. Its entry described it as made by Merzbach & Falk, who traded as the Geographical Institute of Brussels: "A terrestrial li-

brary globe diameter 12 inches... made up of 12 lithographed and coloured paper gores, the oceans showing currents and some steamship routes..."

There is further embarrassment for Christie's: Mr Bissell-Thomas suggests that those steamship routes were in fact cable-line routes, as steamship routes could not have crossed Africa, as represented in the imagery.

He believes that somebody through whose hands the globe passed deliberately misrepresented it as the genuine article. All his globes are marked with his "facsimile" logo within a characteristic crown-shaped design: he was asked by both the Coronelli Society, the international cartography body, and *Map Collector* magazine to mark his globes in such a way.

In the Christie's example, the word "facsimile" had been scratched out, leaving only the logo's crown, suggesting perhaps that it had come from an important collection. He ex-

plained that someone must have bought the globe ball and placed it on a more elaborate stand. Its ring of brass, rather than a more usual wooden support, was a giveaway that something was wrong. However, he added, it could not have been the original, as that does not survive: his model is based on flat maps that have survived from it.

Mr Bissell-Thomas has not been entirely surprised by someone trying to pass off one of his globes as an original. Several dealers have approached him wanting to buy several globes on condition that he leave off the "facsimile" marking: "I've had two cases where dealers said they'll only buy them if we take it off. One was a telephone conversation. Another was through an agent. We've lost sales from being honourable," Thomas & Greaves sells up to 300 a year of the 1881 model.

Greaves & Thomas is a family-run firm in West



James Bissell-Thomas, whose company has been making replicas of antique globes for only eight years

London which used to devote itself to making theatrical props and eccentric furniture. In 1983, intrigued by globes and how they were made, they began to research the subject. They discovered that an old established globe-maker, George Philips, had ceased

trading. Starting from scratch, Mr Bissell-Thomas studied them at the National Maritime Museum and Royal Geographical Society, and then experimented with making the two plaster halves light, yet hard, enough to be placed on the axis. The maps were

reproduced on 12 strips of paper which he hand-laid out to the surface edge to edge. The National Gallery will exhibit one of his globes, a reconstruction of the small terrestrial example in Holbein's *The Ambassadors*, in its exhibition on the circa 1532

painting next year. The reproduction is based on the only surviving set of gores.

Early globes rarely reach the market. Few survived due to their fragile nature, Mr Bissell-Thomas said. "Also, a lot went out of date quickly and were discarded."

Solicitor dies after fall from Greek cliff

BY EMMA WILKINS

A SOLICITOR on a yachting holiday around the Greek islands has died after falling from a cliff as he walked back to his boat from a restaurant.

David Carr, 43, is believed to have tripped over in the darkness as he walked along the cliff on the island of Folegandros. His wife Diane had left the taverna earlier to put the couple's two children, Richard, 11, and Julie, 8, to bed on their chartered yacht.

When Mr Carr, from Blyth, Northumberland, failed to return, his wife went to look for him and raised the alarm. His body was found on rocks on the beach.

The couple had enjoyed holidays on the island with their children for several years. Mr Carr's father Reginald, a retired GP who also lives in Blyth, said: "David knew every pebble on those Greek islands. For him to die in an accident like this is incredible."

Mrs Carr and the children have returned to Britain. A post-mortem examination has been held; the cause of death will be disclosed later this week. Mr Carr was a member of the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, where flags were flying at half-mast yesterday.

Mother of girl found dead in river makes tearful plea for information

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE mother of the murdered schoolgirl Caroline Glachan yesterday made a tearful appeal for witnesses to come forward to help police hunting for the killer of her only child.

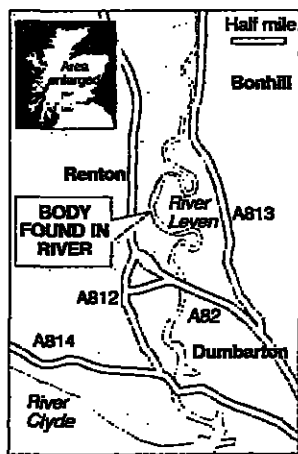
The body of the 14-year-old girl was recovered from the River Leven at Renton, near Dumbarton, on Sunday afternoon. The cause of death has not been disclosed, but police said that she had been violently attacked.

Margaret Glachan, 40, broke down as she pleaded for information about her daughter. "I ask anybody that saw anything or heard anything to come forward. She was my only wean [child]. Somebody must know something."

Caroline's grandfather, William McDermott, 61, said: "I was born and bred in Renton. I know how close-knit Renton is. But I would ask people to come forward and tell police what they know." The girl's father, William, who is es-



Caroline Glachan's body was found by a passer-by



tranged from Mrs Glachan, was in Dumbarton yesterday.

The girl was last seen alive about 11.30pm on Saturday outside shops near her home in Bonhill. Police said that she had been on her way to meet friends in Renton, a mile away, but it was not clear whether she had arrived.

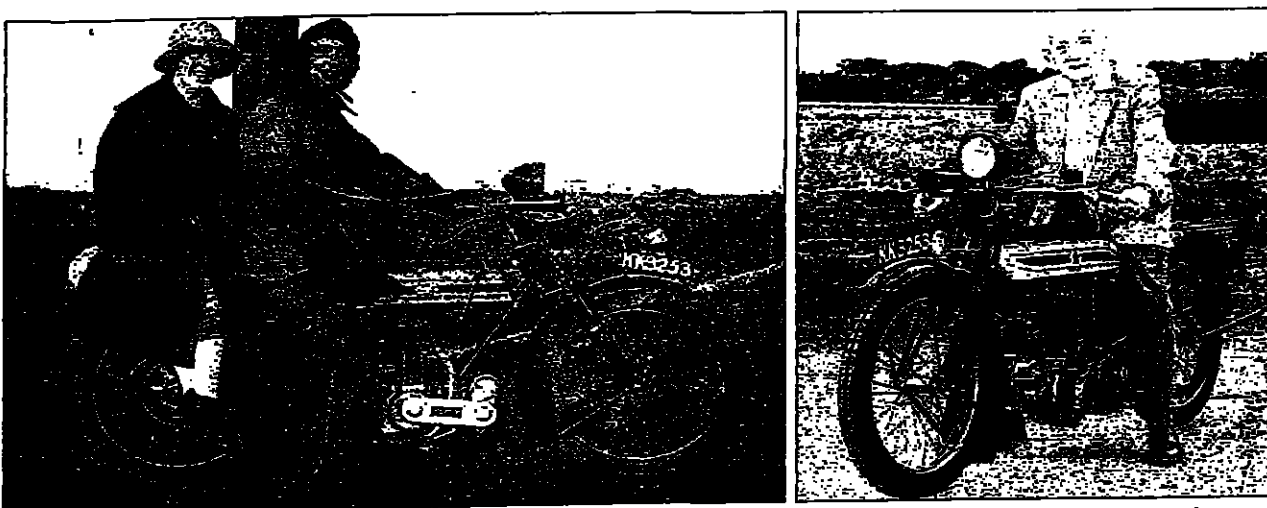
At 4.20pm on Sunday a passer-by saw her body in the river, beside a primary school. It is believed that she had not been reported missing.

Police said that she had not been sexually assaulted and was still wearing the black sweatshirt and black jeans she had left home in. The area was

searched yesterday for clues and a possible murder weapon. The riverside is frequented by drug-users but police said there was nothing to suggest that the death was drug-related.

Detective Chief Inspector Janette Joyce, who is leading the inquiry, said that Caroline's friends would be interviewed in an effort to piece together her final hours. "It is vital we get a picture of Caroline's last movements. Here we have a lovely young girl, who had a lot of pals, whose life has been taken away. It is vital we hear from the public," Ms Joyce said.

A special assembly and Mass was held yesterday at Our Lady and St Patrick's High School in Dumbarton, where Caroline was a fourth-year pupil. One schoolfriend said: "She was always making people laugh. She tried to please everyone." Gerard McDonald, the head teacher, said: "Staff and pupils are deeply distressed by this."



Albert Pantony taking a girlfriend for a spin in 1924 on the Triumph which, like him, is still going strong today

63 troublefree years — the perfect AA member

IN THE eyes of the AA, Albert Pantony is a very nice man indeed. Mr Pantony, 92, has been a member for 63 years and has yet to call on the association's services. This is largely because the Triumph motorcycle bought for him by his father in 1923 has yet to break down. In addition, the retired agricultural engineer from Birthington, Kent, has kept a clean licence since he took to the road 76 years ago.

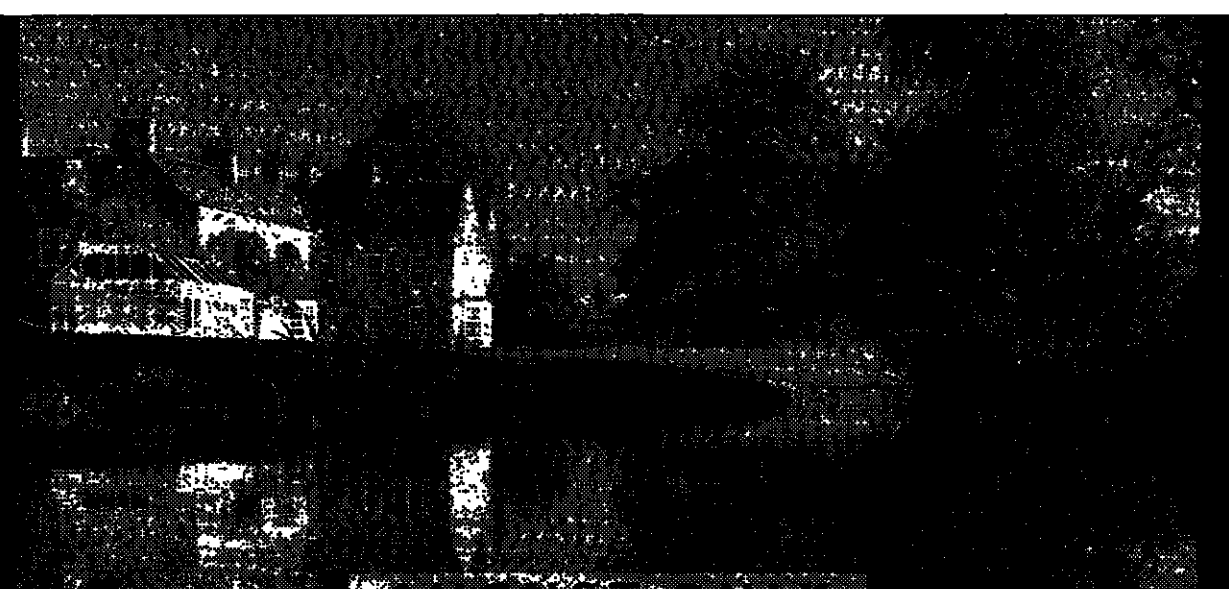
These days, Mr Pantony does not often get to ride the 550cc machine,

which cost £66 new, but is still a regular driver in a three-year-old Toyota. "I have been an AA member since 1933 and I have never had to call them out once," he said. "It shows what a good bike the Triumph is. I have had very little trouble and certainly it has never broken down. But I pay my dues to the AA every year, just in case, because the bike is getting a bit older — just like me."

Over the years Mr Pantony has paid a total of £601 for his peace of mind. From 1933 to 1966 the annual subscription for

the basic service remained static at two guineas before rising to the current rate of £39. An AA spokesman said: "He is a valued member and we hope very much that we retain him for as long as he is driving."

A veteran motorist from Leicester has renewed his car insurance for £6. After Wilfred Voyler, 88, docked up more than a million miles and half a century with Norwich Union, it offered him the same quote as in 1947 when he first took out a policy with the company.



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Semanticists are far from word perfect on how to describe first two decades of the next century

New millennium begins with bout of name calling

By ROBIN YOUNG

WE ARE now in the Nineties. But what will we be in from the year 2000, apart from another fine mess?

It is a question that is exercising semanticists and lexicographers as they prepare for the new millennium. The first two decades of a new century, they worry, do not have any easy description that can be appended to them.

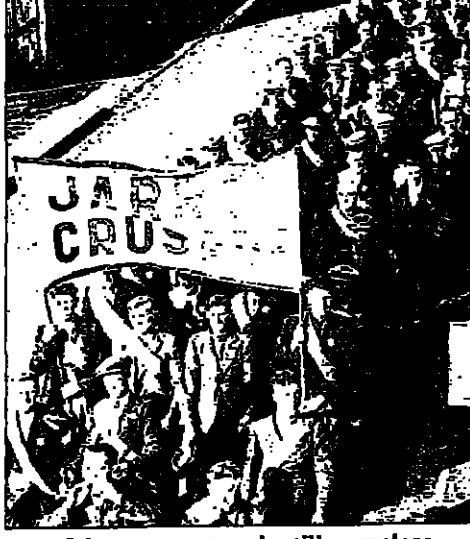
So the Naughty Nineties ending the 19th century were followed by... well, the early 20th century or, if you prefer, the Edwardian era. The 20th century teens were not called that. Instead the Edwardian era extended a few years beyond the monarch's death and were then succeeded by the Great War, or possibly the War Years, which lasted almost long enough to see us into the Roaring Twenties.

Then came the Hungry Thirties and, later, the Swing Sixties, the Affluent Eighties, and whatever this decade will eventually be known as.

Nobody knows what we are headed next. The Years Nought perhaps, or the Noughties, or the Under-Tens. Other suggestions in-



King Edward VII got this century off to an easy start, followed by the War Years, Roaring Twenties and Hungry Thirties. The start of the new century is still nameless



clude the Os, the Double Os, the Double Zeros, or the Zeros and Zilches. Suggestions for the second decade of the coming century include the appalling "the twenties".

Dr Martin Mellor, editor of Chambers dictionaries, said: "I expect the first decade of the next millennium to be called the early 21st century, which is why we publish Chambers 21st Century Dic-

tionary next month. But you cannot be prescriptive about it. You cannot tell people what to say. Language is always changing and they will make up their own minds."

One thing Chambers's word tracking department, keeping check on usage, claims already to have detected is a switch from "two thousand and one, two thousand and two..." in favour of

"twenty O one, twenty O two..." This recalls to mind Ian McIntyre, as Controller of Radio 3, prohibiting staff from saying "nineteen O one, nineteen O two" and so on, insisting instead on "nineteen hundred and one, nineteen hundred and two..."

That still leaves those who survive the *fin de siècle* the choice between "two thousand and one etc." and "twen-

ty hundred and one, twenty hundred and two" and so on.

"I think it may quickly shorten further to 'twenty one, twenty two'." Dr Mellor said. "The only possible ambiguity is confusion with AD 21 etc. which are too long ago to be a problem for most people."

Diana Treffy, of Collins dictionaries, said: "I have had letters complaining about the use of O when referring to

years. People insist that the correct figure description is zero."

She was not tempted by suggestions that the next decade might be dubbed the Dizeros. "It lacks elegance," she said. "It has to be something people will immediately understand and associate with, not make them think: 'What on earth is that?'"

Professor David Crystal, author of the *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, said: "This comes up once every hundred years. I know it was made something of an issue in *Punch* at the turn of the last century, but they did not find an answer. There is no obvious solution, but people are likely to evolve their own answer if one is really needed."

"I think two thousand and

one is pre-empted because of the Kubrick film, but after that anything could happen. Probably people will go for the form that is shorter. Sadly we have no evidence what they did about it in the year 1000."

Graham Poynton, of the BBC pronunciation unit, denied that the corporation was devising any guidelines. "We have noticed that everyone refers to 'the year 2000' as just '2000'," he said. "If you take the first two decades together people understand it if you say 'the nineteen hundreds and nineteen tens', but if you take the tens away, the nineteen hundreds extends to the whole century."

"The earliest part of the 18th century became 'Queen Anne' and the start of the 19th was 'the Regency'. Perhaps we could find help from ancient historians or classicists."

Not much, in fact. The Romans, it seems, dated their history by reference to reigning emperors or consuls, while Greeks were happy to go by Olympiads. "It is a silly question," the curator of the British Museum Egyptian department said. "For us every thing is just 'circa'."

Timid doctors fail to give heart patients the best drugs

By JEREMY LAURENCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS with heart failure are being denied the best treatment because family doctors are too fearful of side-effects to prescribe drugs that can increase life expectancy.

Drugs called ACE inhibitors which dilate the blood vessels to ease the strain on the heart have been available for ten years but studies show that fewer than one in five heart patients receive them. About 600,000 people in Britain suffer from heart failure and half die within five years.

The cost to the NHS is estimated at £326 million and the condition is increasing. A study by doctors from Nottingham shows that ignorance of the seriousness of heart failure and worry about side-effects are the chief reasons why GPs are reluctant to prescribe the drugs.

Dr Andrew Houghton and Dr Alan Cowley of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, say that heart failure — a weakness of the heart muscle caused by a heart attack or high blood pressure — has a devastating impact on patients and places a major burden on the NHS. A survey of 515 GPs in Nottingham found that more than a third underestimated the high risk of death and almost half were worried about the side-effects of ACE inhibitors, including falling blood pressure and damage to the kidneys.

The findings were released yesterday at an international meeting of 16,000 heart specialists attending the eighteenth Congress of the European Society of Cardiology in Birmingham. The researchers said that less than 2 per cent of patients on ACE

inhibitors suffer a fall in blood pressure.

They say GPs unwilling to give the drug should refer patients to hospital. "Patients should not be denied treatment unnecessarily when it can improve their symptoms and increase their life expectancy."

Philip Poole-Wilson, president of the Congress and Professor of Cardiology at the National Heart and Lung Institute in London, said it was unlikely that GPs would be deterred from using ACE inhibitors by the cost of £1 to £2 a day. "Trials have shown improvements in the death rate, symptoms, hospitalisation and capacity for exercise."

"They reduce overall costs because they keep people out of hospital. My view is that every patient with heart failure who is also taking a diuretic should be considered for an ACE inhibitor."

A new drug which works as a "clot stopper" has been shown to cut the death rate of patients undergoing a common surgical treatment for heart disease by half. The drug, a monoclonal antibody called abciximab, reduces the stickiness of the platelets in blood, preventing clots forming. The risk is highest when patients undergo a balloon angioplasty, in which a catheter is introduced into the heart and a tiny balloon inflated to stretch the narrowed artery.

Two trials in the US and Europe were stopped early because the preliminary findings were so dramatic. Final results showed that a single shot of the drug reduced deaths from 9 to 10 per cent to 4 to 5 per cent.

Foxglove dispute proves incurable

By OUR HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 years after it was discovered, doctors have been unable to show that the world's oldest heart drug is a useful treatment for heart failure.

More than 100,000 British patients take digoxin, the most widely prescribed form of digitalis, which is extracted from the foxglove. Although it is a proven treatment for atrial fibrillation — abnormal heart rhythms — some specialists believe that those taking it for heart failure where there is no abnormal rhythm are wasting their time.

To settle the matter, US researchers established one of the longest studies of heart failure, involving nearly 8,000 patients who were followed for up to five years.

The results, presented at the Congress of the European Society of Cardiology yesterday, showed that there was no difference in the death rate between those treated with digoxin and those who were not. Admission to hospital for

heart failure was 25 per cent lower among those on digoxin.

The dispute over digoxin has lasted almost since William Withering isolated it from a secret cure for dropsy (heart failure) used by an old woman in Shropshire in 1775. It was rapidly taken up for all ailments. At the beginning of the 20th century it was rehabilitated as a heart drug but UK and US doctors disagreed about its role in heart failure where there was no abnormal rhythm. American doctors believed it was effective but British doctors did not.

Richard Gorlin, the study co-ordinator, said the findings showed that the drug worked. "There is no overall impact on mortality but we have improved the basic condition of clinical heart failure."

However, the findings also show that admissions to hospitals for other reasons were higher in the patients treated with digoxin. Overall admissions were only 2 per cent lower in the treated group.

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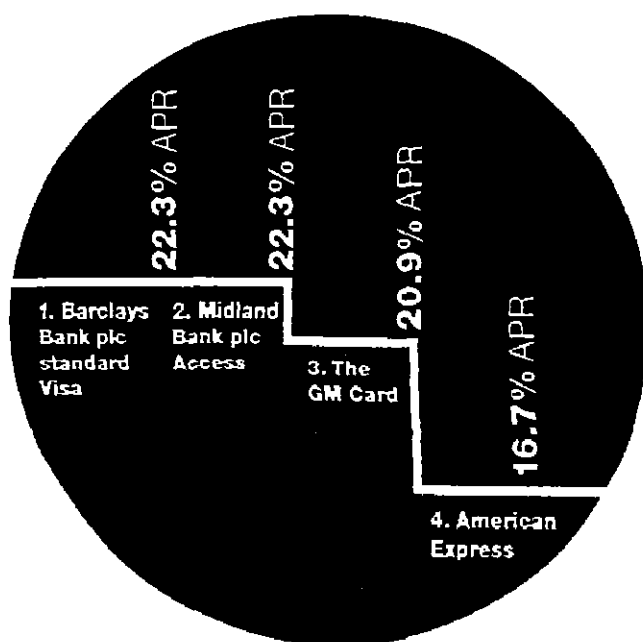
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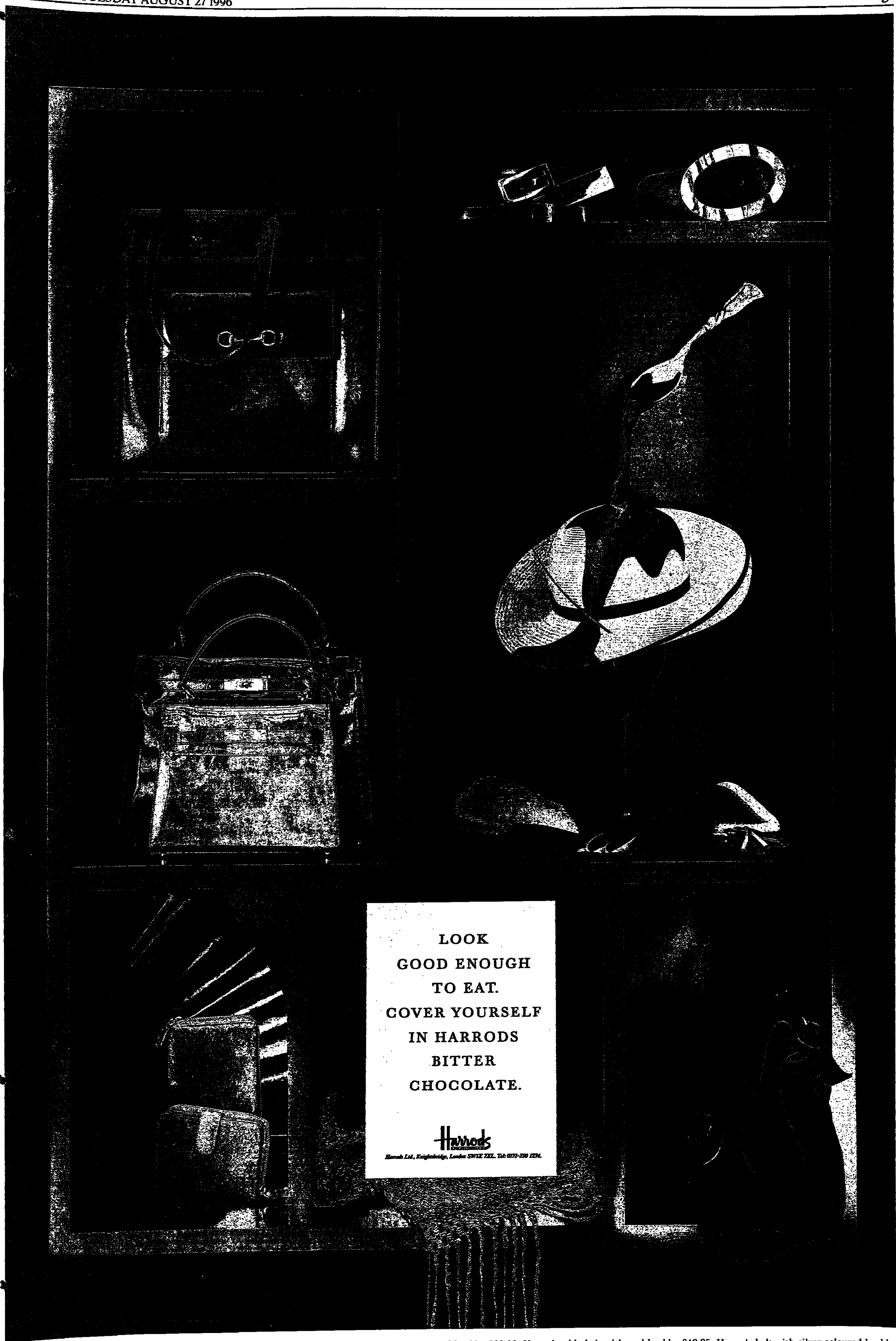
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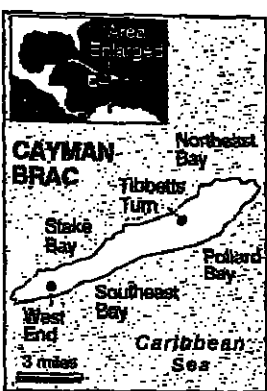
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Warship sunk for divers' pleasure

By KATHARINE ROAD

A RUSSIAN warship is to be sunk off a Caribbean island in an attempt to create an exciting environment for holidaying divers.

Tourist chiefs hope that the 500-ton destroyer will become a huge draw to Cayman Brac, a member of the Commonwealth measuring ten square miles, as it is colonised by the thousands of exotic marine species that inhabit its coral reefs.

The island bought the warship for £160,000 from the Russian Navy. It had cost £20 million to build and its last duty was to patrol Cuban waters.

Thomas Jefferson, Cayman Brac's Tourism Minister and an amateur diver, said: "A group of professional divers will supervise the project and sea life will be temporarily moved."

Richard Luxmore, of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, said the wreck would protect the coral, which can suffer long-term damage from being touched by divers.

"There are also fish which need a hard structure to live on or around and this may increase the diversity of fish in the area," he said.

Reg Vallentine, who teaches scuba diving in London, said that the wreck would enhance the island's reputation as an excellent diving spot. "Experienced divers are always looking for new and different places," he said.

'I thought, that's it - I'm going to have to wait for the tide to wipe me out'

Walker trapped in quicksand believed he would drown

By ADRIAN LEE

THE man pulled from quicksand shortly before the incoming tide would have covered his head said yesterday that he believed he was going to die.

Terry Howlett, who was trapped at Morecambe Bay for ten hours, said that he realised the water was rushing in. "I thought, that's it. I'm just going to have to wait for the tide to wipe me out."

The muddy sand had "set like concrete", trapping him up to his waist after he began sinking during a late-night stroll at Warton in Lancashire.

He said relief when his shouts for help were finally answered disappeared when he realised that his first would-be rescuers could not free him. It took the fire, ambulance, coastguard and police services another 90 minutes to release him, just six minutes before the high tide would have drowned him.

Mr Howlett, 28, a former naval engineer from Darlington, Co Durham, was familiar with the area and had decided to visit it for the day. After a few beers and a pizza in Carnforth he took a walk at 10pm on Saturday night to clear his head. "I'd been walking for about half an hour when I realised my feet were sinking." The more he struggled, the deeper he sank. "I was panicking and paddling like crazy. When it got up to my waist I stopped trying. The

mud set like concrete around me and I was trapped." His shouts were lost in the wind and driving rain.

"I just tried to keep still and keep myself warm," said Mr Howlett, who was invalided out of the Navy six years ago with a knee complaint after serving as a weapons engineer. "I was shouting myself hoarse but I didn't think anyone would be able to hear me at that time. By this time dawn was breaking and I was worried that the tide was coming in."

A farmer, his wife and a policeman eventually arrived, after the cries were heard more than a mile away. "I was so relieved and I thought it was all over," Mr Howlett said. "But the pain while they were trying to pull me out was excruciating. The mud was crushing my legs."

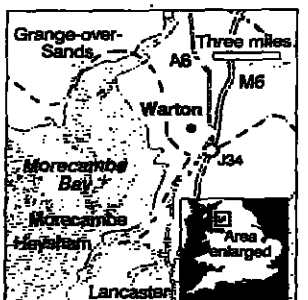
His next memory was being surrounded by other rescuers, who used "air lances" to try to

blast the clinging sand away from his legs and hoses to dilute the mud. "It was terribly painful and freezing cold but they kept reassuring me that they'd get me out."

An ambulancewoman, Sue Williamson, 37, knelt in the water beside him, telling jokes to keep his spirits up. "I felt safe then. I thought, 'They'll get me out.'"

However, the tide was inching up the beach. "I suddenly noticed there was water everywhere." But with minutes to spare he was free and in an RAF helicopter on his way to hospital. "At that point I just wanted to go to sleep and get warm. It wasn't until I was safe in hospital that I realised how close it had been. They told me that in another five or ten minutes that would have been it. I would have drowned."

He spent the night in hospital, haunted by thoughts of how close to death he had come. "I kept waking up thinking I might not have been in this bed now." Members of the rescue team are to be cited for bravery awards. Mr Howlett said: "Words can't describe how I feel about them. They saved my life."



Terry Howlett, who suffered shock, a sprained ankle and the loss of his shoes

Two die in air crash after taking off without clearance

By PETER FOSTER

TWO men killed when their aircraft crashed shortly after take-off from a Manchester airfield early yesterday had no clearance from air traffic control, the airfield director said.

The men, both in their mid-thirties, died instantly when the single-engine Rallye aircraft came down in a field about 500 yards from Barton airfield, Salford, Greater Manchester. They took off about 7am, two hours before air traffic control and

fire services came on duty. A witness said the engine appeared to cut out before the aircraft hit the ground, breaking in two.

Fire, police and ambulance crews were on the scene in minutes and spent more than two hours cutting the bodies from the wreckage. Police were yesterday waiting for formal identification of the two men, believed to be from Wales.

Eric Whitworth, director of the airfield, said: "The aircraft took off without permission being granted

and at a time when no fire or air traffic control cover was being provided. There was no one there and they took off without informing anyone."

Mike Edwards, chairman of the Lancashire Aero Club, based at the airfield, said the four-seater aeroplane was registered to an owner in Wales who was not a member of the club. "The crash happened when the airfield was not fully operational - even the security guard was off duty. An airfield is not licensed until they

have fire cover and air traffic control," Mr Edwards added that the pair had landed at Barton on Sunday afternoon to refuel but were forced to stay the night after bad weather closed in and they were refused permission for take-off.

In July the last airworthy Mosquito fighter-bomber crashed at a display at Barton Air Show, killing the pilot and navigator. It burst into flames as it crashed in dense woodland about a mile from the airfield. Mr Edwards, a member of the

Aeroclub for 20 years, said that two fatal crashes in five weeks made it the saddest season in the history of the club.

"The crashes are totally unrelated. The last accident at an air show here was 15 years ago and it's been ten years since a non-air-show-related crash. All the staff here offer our fullest sympathies to the families of these two men."

Police said yesterday that the crash was being investigated by the Air Accident Investigation Branch.

Britain's bill for eating out tops £17bn

Britons spent £17 billion on eating out last year, an average of £303 a head, the industry analysts Euromonitor said. Britain spent more per person than Spain and Canada but fell far below Japan, where the average annual figure was £1,300. Americans came second with less than half that at £653.

Euromonitor predicted that the British figure would grow by up to 11 per cent a year until 2000.

Child dials 999

A boy aged five dialled 999 after waking up and finding his mother dead. It is believed that Amanda Healey of Cardiff had been stabbed. Earlier the body of a man, thought to be her husband Robert, 37, had been found on a nearby beach.

Cliff death

A man died after he was thrown from his car when it crashed through a fence on a steep hill and cartwheeled 900ft down a slope on to a rocky beach near Lymington, Devon. Rescuers are satisfied that nobody else was in the vehicle.

Sikhs arrested

Seven people were arrested after fighting broke out between groups of Sikhs in Southampton. The violence centred on a hall where 200 Sikhs had gathered for a celebration. Those arrested will appear before Southampton magistrates this week.

Atlantic attempts

Tom McNally, 53, of Liverpool is making his seventh attempt to sail the smallest boat across the Atlantic singlehanded, in a 3ft 11in vessel. His epileptic friend Andrew Halsey, 59, is trying to become the first disabled person to row across.

In name only

A navy veteran's name is to be removed from a war memorial in Southsea, Hampshire, after he was found living in Australia. Robert Earnshaw, 83, was thought to have died when HMS *Salvia* was sunk in 1941 but had gone ashore for hospital treatment.

Garage attacked

Vandals smashed more than a dozen cars with a hammer and an axe at a showroom in Cheltenham, the fifth in the town to have been attacked. Police believe that a gang organised by a car dealer is trying to put rivals out of business.

Not before time

A 300-year-old brass sundial that went missing from the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels in Linton, North Yorkshire, 30 years ago, has been returned. The church is hoping that a crucifix stolen 15 years ago might also find its way home.

Beach boy

A boy was delivered on a sea-side deckchair after his mother went into labour on the promenade at Cromer, Norfolk, and the father raised the alarm at a lifeboat station. An off-duty paramedic, a retired doctor, lifeguards and passers-by went to her aid.

Supermarket sets up DIY checkout to reduce queues

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE supermarket checkout queue may soon be a thing of the past. Safeway, one of Britain's largest chains, today begins testing an unmanned, cashless checkout which, it claims, will mean speedier, queue-free shopping.

The company is starting a four-week test of its new Auto Pay Point at its store in Reigate, Surrey. Using one of the retailer's loyalty cards and a portable scanning device about the size of a mobile telephone, the shopper scans the price of each item before putting it in the trolley.

The loyalty card is inserted into a pay point, which produces an itemised till slip. Payment is made via the customer's credit or debit card, which is processed auto-

matically at the same pay point. Once payment is completed, customers are free to leave the store, avoiding the conventional checkout altogether.

Roger Partington, Safeway's marketing director, said: "The concept is about being able to get in and out of stores as quickly as possible, avoiding the stress point at checkout."

Research has shown, he added, that queueing to pay is the part customers most dislike about supermarket shopping. The auto pay point is an extension of an existing scheme, called Shop & Go, in which customers scan the price of goods onto their loyalty card. The card is presented at a conventional checkout, where a cashier

processes the payment. Shop & Go is used at 47 Safeway stores and will be in place at 100 by October.

The Auto Pay Point will allow shoppers to sidestep the cashiers and pay with a credit or debit card at a machine by the shop's exit. Safeway says the cashless checkout will not lead to a sharp increase in shop theft although its success rests on trusting the customer.

To be able to use the new system, customers must be members of the company's loyalty scheme, which means Safeway will have their name and address. All customers are checked the first time they use the system and, as long as no unscanned items are found, the frequency of checks is gradually reduced. But spot checks will continue.

Drugs and low-calorie sweets that have surprising effect on the figure



Dr Thomas Stuttford

LIZ HORSBROUGH is one of those people who find it difficult to resist the desire to finish a box of chocolates once it has been opened. Usually there are no lasting consequences to this small weakness. Mrs Horsbrough says, however, that eating a whole packet of sugar-free Polo mints has been a contributory cause of her pregnancy. Sugar-free Polos contain the sweetener Sorbitol, which has a mild laxative effect and may cause diarrhoea in people with a sensitive gut.

The contraceptive Pill, like any other medicine, needs to stay in the gastrointestinal tract long enough to be absorbed into the system to be effective. Mrs Horsbrough, 38, of North Shields, claims that as a result of the sugar-free mints the mini-Pill she had taken that day was flushed into the sewage system before it had had time to be absorbed. Any substance that has a laxative effect, whether overripe plums or oily fish, could have an effect

ly if a woman is taking the mini-Pill which has to be absorbed at regular times to be effective. Women may also become pregnant because of an attack of food poisoning.

Some drugs interact with hormonal contraceptives and inhibit their action. *Martin's Pharmacopoeia*, the authoritative textbook on pharmacy, puts anti-epileptic drugs at the head of its list of preparations which may interfere with the action of hormone contraception. They cause problems not by upsetting the digestion but by altering the enzyme systems that metabolise the hormones. A stronger dose of the hormone preparation will usually

implied in unintended pregnancy. The most commonly blamed is rifampicin, prescribed in cases of tuberculosis and other bacterial infections, but others in the *Martindale's* list include tetracyclines and griseofulvin, which is commonly used antifungal agent. There has been dispute about a possible interaction between ampicillin and contraceptives, but the evidence seems inconclusive. It does, however, frequently cause diarrhoea in susceptible patients which could be responsible for unexpected pregnancies.

Sugar-free Polos will remain a favourite sweet for diabetic patients, despite Mrs Horsbrough's case. Fortunately, she is being positive about her pregnancy, but women who would not welcome one should take extra precautions whenever they have diarrhoea. If they are taking drugs that can interfere with the Pill, they should discuss with their doctor the possible interaction and

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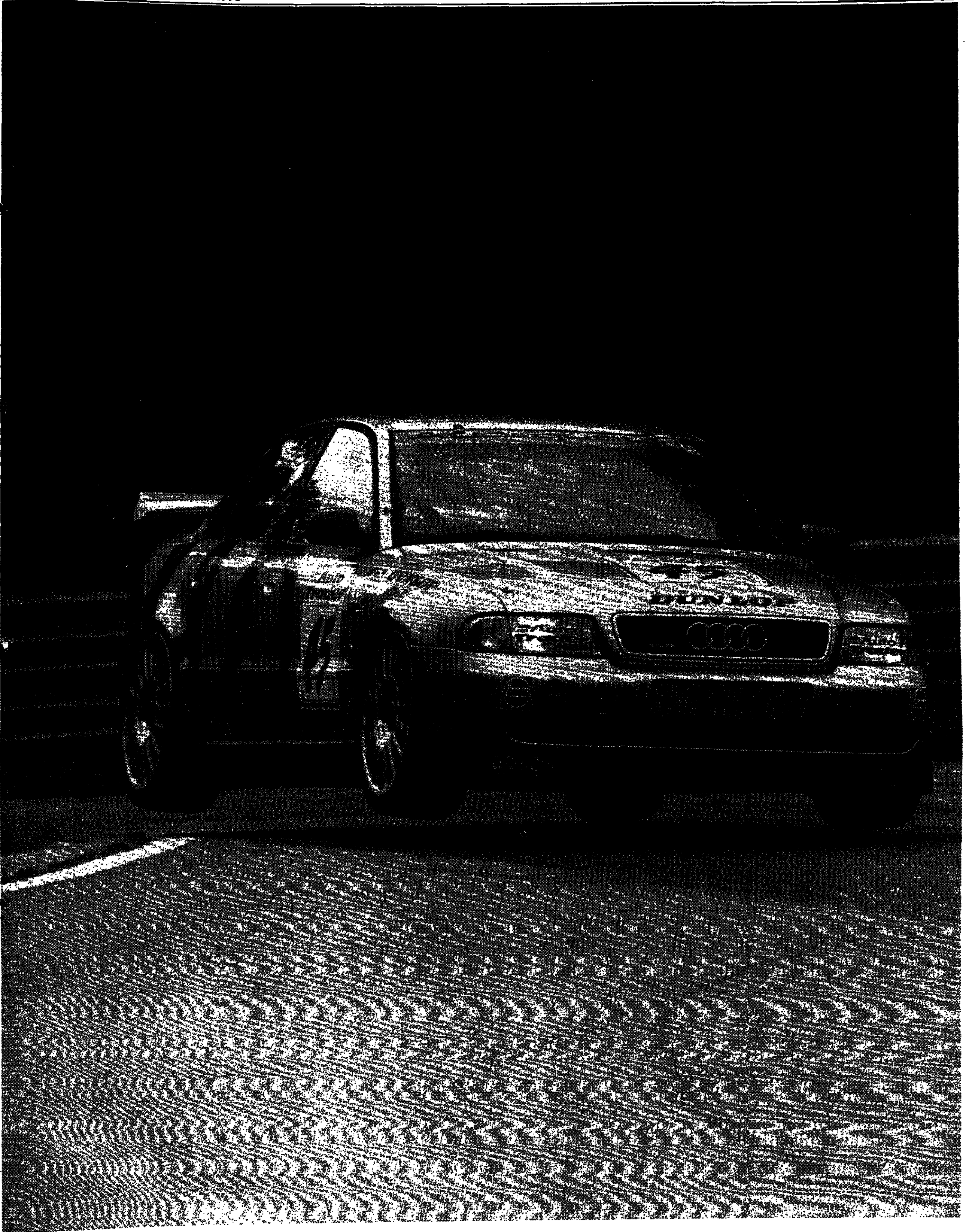
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Edinburgh Television Festival

Soap opera producers want to drop drug rules

REPORTS BY CAROL MIDDLELEY

SOAP operas and television documentaries are being prevented by outdated regulations from realistically depicting the use of drugs, programme-makers said yesterday.

The guidelines meant television could not reflect the fact that many people took drugs without becoming addicted, it was argued at a seminar at the Edinburgh Television Festival. The guidelines stipulate that drug-taking must not be promoted as a normal activity. Drugs experts and programme-makers said that that

led to work that patronised and misinformed young people and their parents.

Gyles Oakley, the BBC's head of community programming, said: "There are people who take drugs and don't have a problem. Television is bad at dealing in complexity. Drug-taking is a normal part of life — it would be absurd if we could not depict crime, for instance."

He cited his documentary *Dangerous when Bored*, about a successful businessman who used drugs recrea-

tionally. Mr Oakley had had to include irrelevant negative references to the man's life, such as childhood events, to avoid being seen to show drug-taking in a positive light. "This was a man using drugs and holding down a successful career. That is an important truth," he said.

Ian Wardle, chief executive of the Manchester drugs advice centre Lifeline, said people were being patronised by sensationalist horrific images on television. He cited a *Here and Now* documentary,

presented by Sue Lawley, on cannabis addiction. A teenager's bedroom drawer had been shown packed with syringes, foil wraps and Ecstasy tablets, which Mr Wardle found ludicrous. An episode of *EastEnders* in which a character became hysterical and ran out into the road after having her drink spiked with Ecstasy was far-fetched, he said.

Jimmy Corkhill, in Channel 4's *Brookside*, had taken Ecstasy, become addicted to cocaine, injected heroin, gone to jail, become a dealer, and returned to the straight and narrow in short order. In the world depicted on the small screen, he said, "people experiment with drugs, they get addicted, they go to prison, they die". The reality was much more prosaic.

"Plenty of people take drugs and lead perfectly normal lives. There is a distinction between liking something enormously and being dependent on it. The vast majority of drug-taking is managed recreational use. Programme-makers don't take account of the fact that to many people it is no different from having a couple of lagers and a few cigarettes." He said that to maintain credibility with young people, television should show the recreational side of drug use.

Corrine Hollingworth, former executive producer of *EastEnders*, and Mal Young, series producer for *Brookside*, admitted they were constrained by the guidelines but insisted they had a duty to show children the dangers of drug-taking. Miss Hollingworth also said that *EastEnders* did show drugs being used casually and without catastrophic effects.

Mr Young said: "Television is accused of being hypocritical and behind the times because it must not depict drugs other than in a bad light." However, audiences wanted to see drug-dealers get their comeuppance, out of a sense of justice. It would be dangerous for drug-taking to be depicted as quite acceptable and without consequences, he said.

Paul Betts, whose 18-year-old daughter Leah died after taking a single Ecstasy tablet last year, said that programme-makers should acknowledge that young people enjoyed taking drugs.

Stephen Whittle, of the Broadcasting Standards Council, reminded the audience that the drugs at issue were illegal. He urged programme-makers to appreciate that parents were concerned that their children might be attracted to drugs.



Sutcliffe: he spent seven not entirely happy years at Haberdashers' Aske's

Old boy's public school tale a 'cauldron of lust'

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PITY Jeremy Goulding. He was appointed headmaster of Haberdashers' Aske's School in Hertfordshire only last week and now he finds that one of the school's old boys has written an outrageous novel which many claim identifies the place as a cauldron of homosexuality, mental instability and lust.

For the author, William Sutcliffe, a television researcher who spent seven not entirely happy years as a pupil at Haberdashers', *New Boy* is a first sortie into fiction. The school's staff and pupils, past and present, have been scandalised to discover that his imagination seems to have wandered from what many take to be personal experience.

The book is set in a pushy independent school for boys in the green belt outside northwest London. Its motto is "Serve and Obey". It was founded by one of the City of London's guilds of tradesmen, is separated by only a gate from a neighbouring girls' school, and is near a small lake called Pikes Water. Haberdashers' Aske's (motto: "Serve and Obey"), founded by a City guild of tradesmen, separated by only a gate from a girls' school, and near a small lake called Pikes Water, charges fees of £5,600 a year. Its old boys include Oscar Moore, who wrote a book in which the school was the setting for other homosexual behaviour.

Mr Sutcliffe, 25, yesterday denied that his account of an awkward friendship between two teenage boys drew exactly on episodes from his time at the school, but contemporaries believe that they recognise many of the incidents and characters.

Mr Sutcliffe does not give his fictional school a name.

Unlike *Tom Brown's School-days*, no real people are named in the book. However, following the tradition started by Thomas Hughes's satirical view of life at Rugby School, published in 1856, people have quickly spotted parallels between Mr Sutcliffe's fictional school and his alma mater.

Mr Sutcliffe portrays his fictional school's pupils as sexually repressed or insufferably arrogant. The staff make passes at the boys and have nervous breakdowns. Penis symbols appear all over school, and various married male teachers are described as ogling and touching the young boys in their charge.

He said: "Some bits are made up and others are quite recognisable. I am not confident enough to say they are true because they are based on rumours. But it is true a lot of ex-students seem to recognise bits of the teachers."

Emphasis is placed on the arrogance of some of the pupils. The school rugby team have a penchant for bundling each other onto sofas in the common room.

Saul Venit, 25, a contemporary of Mr Sutcliffe, said: "I do not recognise myself but

there are characters Will has obviously based on real people. I am sure it will cause ripples at the school."

Mr Goulding, who has not yet read the novel though he intends to do so, said: "The book is described as a work of fiction, which I presume it is, and the extent to which it is based on personal experience I cannot judge." He said that he had no plans to introduce reforms at the school which, he said, bore no relation to what he had heard about Mr Sutcliffe's fictional creation. "If that is what the book portrays, it fails to represent Haberdashers' Aske's as I see it at the moment," he said.

"Haberdashers' Aske's is without doubt a school of very high calibre. Its academic record is outstanding, with 79 per cent of A levels passed at A or B this year. Achievements in music, theatre and sport are of the very highest order. Perhaps most important, during my visits last year, I detected a real sense of community within the school and it was something which attracted me greatly. People treat you with consideration and that matters a great deal."



Sutcliffe, back row, fourth right, in the hockey team

Official date with dancers primes Princess for life without a partner

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales will mark the formal end of her 15-year marriage tomorrow with a trip to the English National Ballet. The official engagement in South Kensington was arranged in May, long before divorce papers were signed and a date was fixed for the Waleses' decree absolute.

This will not, however, stop some commentators criticising the Princess for appearing in public on the day of the divorce while the Prince keeps a low profile at Balmoral.

After the divorce, the Princess will conclude arrangements to sever her links with St James's Palace, her husband's London base. The three clerks who currently deal with the Princess's correspondence, media inquiries and official engagements from an office at St James's are to move to a newly decorated

apartment next to the Princess's home in Kensington Palace.

With the removal of the title Her Royal Highness, the Princess will have to make arrangements for changes to stationery, credit cards and bank accounts. Staff will continue to curtsy and to call her Your Royal Highness, but the Princess will not use HRH on credit cards or the newly opened bank account in her own name. It will be the first time in 15 years that the Princess has had direct control over her own finances: throughout her marriage she used a Duchy of Cornwall credit card and submitted all her bills to the Prince of Wales's office. She is unlikely to move from England, at least while Prince William and Prince Harry are at school here.

Reports that the Princess has agreed to give an interview to an American television journalist were firmly denied by her office yesterday. Barbara Walters, the

ABC journalist, has been courting her for years and was disappointed when the Princess gave an interview to BBC's *Panorama* last year.

The Princess of Wales has no plans at the moment to be interviewed by Barbara Walters, a spokeswoman for the Princess said. Under the terms of her divorce agreement, the Princess is bound to keep silent about her private life with the Prince of Wales. Also, it is unlikely that she would choose to speak publicly about the break-up because of the effect on the young princes.

Instead, any interview would focus on the Princess's work plans. She intends to concentrate on four main areas: cancer, heart, homelessness and AIDS. Her next public engagement is in Australia in October, when she will attend a charity ball in aid of cardiac research.

Railway travellers face more disruption

Rail services across the country will be cancelled and delayed today because of a second strike by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union. Seven operators will be affected. ScotRail, South Wales and West Railways, Regional Railways North East, North West Regional Railways, North London Railways, CrossCountry Trains and Merseyrail.

They predicted that the disruption would be as bad as during the first strike last Friday. Emergency timetables will be in operation in many parts of the country and buses will cover for cancelled trains. The 24-hour strike by guards, conductors, ticket examiners and catering workers is part of a dispute over productivity pay and refreshment breaks.

Ulster riot

Police in Northern Ireland fired plastic bullets after two officers on mobile patrol were attacked by nationalist rioters early yesterday. About 150 people threw paving stones, bottles and other missiles during more than an hour of rioting in Cookstown, Co Tyrone. One of the injured policemen suffered neck injuries and was detained in hospital for observation. The RUC said that there were no arrests and no reports of civilian injuries.

Shark released

The world's first "test-tube" shark has been released into the sea off Dorset. The 1ft bull-huss shark, now two years old, was reared at Portsmouth Sea Life Centre after a man found an egg case with the shark embryo inside washed up on a beach. A dog had bitten into it. The damaged egg case was kept for eight weeks in a glass incubator filled with embryonic fluid taken from an infertile egg-case. Marine experts believe the shark will survive if it can evade fishermen.

For better

Living with a long-term partner improves men's health, according to a report from the Royal College of Nursing. Widowed, divorced or separated men are more likely to smoke or drink excessively. Some 70 per cent of male deaths in England in 1992 were as a result of circulatory disease and cancers. Males also experience a disproportionate number of childhood disorders such as attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder and conduct disorder.

Trawler docks

The fishing vessel on which five Japanese seamen died off the west coast of Ireland arrived in Cork yesterday. Post-mortem examinations will be carried out at Cork University Hospital on the five, who include the captain. They died as they investigated an emergency in the engine room of the *Taisei Maru* on Friday and were overcome by an escape of freon gas. The ship was one of 30 involved in a stand-off with the Irish Navy over fishing in Irish waters.

Island appeal

Residents on Egg will today launch a national appeal to buy their island off the west coast of Scotland. The 63 islanders hope to attract funding from the National Lottery as well as public money to raise the £2 million being asked by the island's owner. The campaign is being backed by the Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. A number of private buyers are known to be interested in buying the five-mile-long island.



Adie: privately furious at criticism

BBC chief apologises to Kate Adie

A BBC executive who criticised the veteran reporter Kate Adie for the tone of her *Dunblane* coverage apologised yesterday (Adrian Lee writes).

Colin Cameron, head of television for BBC Scotland, said that his remarks were unfortunate. He will send a note to Miss Adie, who was privately furious that she was singled out in public. Mr Cameron will not face disciplinary action.

A spokesman for BBC News said that the department was "shocked by Colin Cameron's remarks and surprised that they were made in public. He has since apologised to us in a telephone call."

He said that the BBC was satisfied that Miss Adie's reporting at *Dunblane* was both sensitive and accurate. Mr Cameron said yesterday he was rueful, adding: "Put it this way, I am not in the running to become head of the Diplomatic Service."

Mr Cameron had told the Edinburgh Television Festival that her arrival in *Dunblane* turned the coverage from appalling tragedy to one of world disaster, owing to her tone of "forensic precision".

In another dispute involving BBC colleagues, Esther Rantzen rejected allegations by John Ware, the *Panorama* reporter, that an episode of *The Rantzen Report* about a patient in a hospital for incurables was "sloppy and misleading".

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THE TIMES

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OVERSEAS NEWS 9

'Progressive' Democrats flee from the liberal ghosts of conventions past

AT THIS convention, liberalism is the creed that dare not speak its name. Many of its former public, and currently secret, adherents will go to almost any length to avoid using the term. One of them even declared brashly the other day: "Most of us use the term 'progressive' now."

Never mind that there was a time when the "progressive" label carried just about the most dread connotations in American politics. It may have been respectable enough in the elections of 1912 and 1924 when it was the title chosen by Teddy Roosevelt and Bob La Follette to characterise the third-party movements that they each hoped would take them to the White



President Clinton has fought off the liberal tag. Now, if he is to look good, he must stifle dissent about welfare, writes Anthony Howard in Chicago

House; but by 1948 the tag had become the property of Henry Wallace and had become virtually synonymous with being a "pinko". Significantly, liberalism was then a hallmark of orthodoxy — being, indeed, proudly used by the heirs of FDR who fiercely opposed Wallace's assumption of his legacy.

Now the boot is firmly on the other foot, thus demonstrating

what the power of propaganda can achieve. It was his identification with liberalism — epitomised by the famous Republican Willy Horton advert (suggesting that he believed in releasing rapists and murderers on licence) — that did for Michael Dukakis in his forlorn bid for the presidency against George Bush just eight years ago. The Republicans plainly believe

that it remains a vein that can still be tapped. Even at the beginning of the present presidential campaign, Bob Dole's advisers sought to exploit it. Their most effective political advert as long ago as last November simply showed Bill Clinton, with his wife Hillary at his side, taking the presidential oath of office with the words "Liberal agenda" superimposed on the television screen. In case there was any doubt about the attack, an announcer intoned: "From Day One, Bill Clinton shocks America with his liberal agenda."

Most of the recovery "the comeback kid" has since been enjoying has been because of his success in rebutting that accusation. He has

had to go to extraordinary lengths to do so. Whatever the tactical justification of his signing, at the third time of asking, the Republicans' welfare Bill, there is no point in denying that it involved him in firmly turning his back on FDR's New Deal and repudiating 60 years of the Democratic Party's social history.

The nearest political equivalent probably would be if some time in the future Tony Blair were to announce that nothing could be done to save the National Health Service: it was beyond fixing or mending and there was no option but to forget all about Aneurin Bevan and to start out afresh.

There is no doubt that in Britain

any such announcement would provoke uproar. The most vivid demonstration of how far liberalism in America is on the defensive is that over here it has done no such thing. Inevitably, there have been mutterings on the sidelines: Mario Cuomo, the great liberal champion who delivered the 1992 keynote speech, is plainly desperately unhappy with what he disparagingly refers to as Clinton's "stepping stone" approach to politics, and may even get the role of an "extra" at this year's convention.

But Mr Cuomo no longer holds any office, any more than does the former Democratic firebrand, Jesse Jackson. He today is so much tamed that on the eve of the

convention he could be heard talking about his belief in his party as "a big tent", an ironic variation on Harold Wilson's conception of Labour as "a broad church" and scarcely the stuff of powerful floor revolts.

Naturally, Mr Clinton and the convention managers will not want entirely to stifle liberal or progressive dissent, even on welfare. For one thing, it is bound to make him look good, a centrist who solidly holds the line against even his own party's extremists. But in the Democratic Party, the liberal hour is over, with even figures such as J.K. Galbraith and Arthur Schlesinger Jr today looking like ghosts from conventions past.

Clinton gathers steam in American heartland

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CHICAGO AND TOM RHODES ON BOARD THE 21ST CENTURY EXPRESS

THE Democratic convention opened in Chicago last night after a weekend of non-stop parties and a particularly sharp attack by President Clinton on Bob Dole.

Mr Clinton said the biggest weakness of his 73-year-old Republican opponent's campaign was that he had "not thought through why he wanted to be President, what he wanted to do". Referring to Mr Dole's Reaganesque call for \$548 billion (£355 billion) in tax cuts to promote economic growth, the President expressed amazement that "right before a general election, after he was nominated, he adopts an economic theory he's rejected all his life".

Mr Dole has championed deficit reduction over tax cuts throughout most of his 35-year congressional career. When he unveiled his tax-cut plan earlier this month he insisted that he could simultaneously balance the budget, but even he now appears to be having "yubis" about whether both goals are achievable. In an apparent reversal of his plan's original priorities, Mr Dole told the *Chicago Tribune* that "the balanced budget amendment is going to be No 1,

balancing the budget by the year 2002 and tax cuts are going to be No 2".

The 4,000 Democratic delegates in Chicago are in buoyant mood, confident of holding the White House, and their optimism received a further eve-of-convention boost from a Gallup poll showing Mr Clinton had widened his lead from seven points right after the Republicans' convention to 12. Mr Clinton will

Right before a general election Dole adopts an economic theory he has rejected all his life

accept his party's nomination on Thursday. His main tasks will be to set out a compelling second-term agenda and counter Republican charges that he would govern as an old-style tax-and-spend liberal because he would no longer have to worry about re-election.

During his first four years Mr Clinton has played the whole gamut of roles from "Old Democrat" to "New Democrat" to neo-Republican,

and a recent *New York Times* poll showed 52 per cent of Americans still did not know enough about the President's true beliefs to predict what he would do if re-elected.

Mr Clinton told yesterday's *Wall Street Journal* he would "govern as a moderate" and promote "mainstream values". His goal was to "oversee America's transformation into the 21st century". He frequently recites the mantra of "op-

portunity, responsibility and community", but has so far only unveiled a few specific initiatives.

Last night, as his political bandwagon gained momentum on the railways of the American heartland in a whistlestop campaign tour not seen since the days of Harry Truman 50 years ago, the President did get down to some specifics and launched a new initiative against violent crime. On board the 21st

Century Express, the train carrying him from the blue-collar mining and steel towns of Appalachia to the manufacturing centres of Lake Michigan, Mr Clinton was expected to announce the first in a series of proposals designed to attract undecided voters in five Midwestern states.

Yesterday he planned to expand the terms of the Brady Bill, curtailing the purchase of weapons, to include a complete ban on handgun sales to those convicted of violent domestic crime. Today he will introduce a programme aimed at reducing illiteracy, and tomorrow an environmental initiative before an acceptance speech in Chicago which will unveil a tax break for employers hiring welfare recipients.

Clearly energised by the official start of his campaign and signs that already he has started to blunt the success of the Republican convention in San Diego, Mr Clinton has warned to the theme of this highly politicised train journey. Free of his wife, Hillary, who waved the entourage farewell in West Virginia before flying on to Chicago, Mr Clinton has been accompanied instead by his daughter, Chelsea, and such notables as Billy Ray Cyrus, the Country and Western star, both of whom excite younger audiences and emphasise Mr Clinton's appeal to the youth vote.

At each stop, a local "hero" has been chosen to promote a particular policy the Administration believes has been a success, from lowering the deficit and providing economic assistance to small businesses to fighting crime and creating better standards of education.

The route has been lined with thousands, from the nonchalant Hells Angel in West Virginia barely blinking as the President waved from the back platform of his antique royal blue carriage, to flagwaving schoolchildren in Kentucky and even a duo clinging to a jet ski on the Ohio River.

Rather like the Olympic torch, Mr Clinton's passage through the heartlands has been an event that even supporters of Mr Dole and Mr Perot have viewed with voyeuristic amusement.

Judy Davis, a staunch Republican, had waited for five hours in Ohio. The crowd was such that she barely saw the President. "I'm not voting for him but I respect him for his office and, well, this is an historic spectacle," she said.



President Clinton, with daughter Chelsea, acknowledges greetings at Ashland, Kentucky, on his whistlestop tour

Pretenders eye the throne

THERE is no plot in the great theatrical production the Democrats are staging in Chicago this week, but one of the more absorbing subplots is the race for the party's next presidential nomination.

Assuming that President Clinton is re-elected in November, Vice-President Al Gore will be hot favourite in 2000 despite his stiffness on the stump. He has served Mr Clinton loyally and effectively and seven of America's last 11 vice-presidents have later won their party's nomination. Mr Gore is maintaining an unusually high profile in Chicago, but so is his most likely rival, Richard Gephardt, the House Democratic leader, who plans to meet all 50 state delegations.

Mr Gore is a leading "New Democrat", Mr Gephardt a leading liberal, and the two men have not been close since they both ran unsuccessfully for the 1988 nomination. One senses that the White House has been pulling a few strings. Mr Gore has been given two

CHICAGO NOTEBOOK

prime-time speaking slots at the convention and Mr Gephardt one slot, which was well before television coverage began last night.

President Clinton has again raised the possibility of adopting. He and Hillary had always wanted a second child, the President told an interviewer, and they would seriously consider the implications after the election. Mr Clinton, who is just 50, was also asked what he would do for a living if he lost. He suggested teaching, writing or even opening a joint law practice with Hillary.

One of the convention's more unusual fringe meetings featured John Prescott opening a Chicago branch of the Labour Party. About thirty interested experts arrived at the Inter-Continental Hotel to hear him, but I doubt

many will sign up. In this, the land of short attention spans, the speeches dragged on for an hour and 30 minutes before Senator Chris Dodd, the Democratic Party chairman, arrived to say a few words. Mr Prescott presented his old friend with a stick of rock with "Tory Lies" running through it.

There used to be furious arguments at conventions. Stage managers then began to assert control and in San Diego this month the Republicans produced the first dissent-free convention. In Chicago the Democrats are going one step further, manufacturing dissent. They are encouraging liberals to attack Mr Clinton for signing a radical Republican welfare reform Bill last week. That is partly to show up the Republicans' fear of free debate, but also because nothing boosts the President's centrist image more than the sight of left-wing Democrats attacking him.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Clearance sought for Libya gift

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LOUIS FARRAKHAN'S Nation of Islam has asked the American Government for permission to receive a billion-dollar (£640-million) gift from Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

The black Muslim minister was promised the donation during a visit to Tripoli in January. Colonel Gaddafi apparently wanted to show his support for American blacks in the wake of Mr Farrakhan's Million Man March on Washington last year.

The offer provoked outrage in America, which maintains stringent trade, travel, financial and investment restrictions on Libya and accuses Tripoli of involvement in the Lockerbie bombing.

Undeterred, Mr Farrakhan told a conference of black journalists last week that he was seeking permission from the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control to receive the money. He also disclosed that he would be travelling to Libya again soon to accept the \$250,000 Gaddafi Prize.

Cuba forgives the sins of yesterday

By DAVID ADAMS, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Beatles, banned in Cuba for many years, are enjoying a state-sponsored revival on the communist island which is planning an International Beatles Convention this year.

"The Cuban people love the Beatles," said Ernesto Castellanos, who is organising the three-day event in October. It will include the recent ten-hour *Beatles Anthology* documentary which was heavily censored when shown on Cuban television.

Cuban officials agree that such events are a means of bringing much needed foreign currency into the country, but there is a genuine cultural interest as well, they say.

Free As A Bird, last year's release by The Beatles, dominated the Cuban pop charts. Señor Castellanos points out. He hopes one convention workshop will examine The Beatles' Cuban influence with special attention being paid to *Till There Was You*, which he describes as a Cuban-style bolero.

Señor Castellanos said The Beatles were a victim of Cuba's struggle with America. "In those days, there was a backlash against American

influence. Anything in English was considered counter-revolutionary and we were, quite rightly, concentrating on developing our own Cuban music."

Despite the risks of punishment by the authorities, many Cuban musicians had always listened secretly to contemporary Western music, said Omar Hernández, a jazz musician and composer who left Cuba with his wife and two children on a raft in 1994.

"All foreign music was banned. If you got caught with their records — The Beatles, Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Led Zeppelin — that meant big trouble," he said.

Señor Hernández, who now plays at a music spot in Miami's Little Havana, said things began to change in the 1980s. In 1994, shortly before he left the island, he participated in a homage to John Lennon. "Good music never dies," he said.

Los Angeles: REM, the rock group, has signed a record-breaking \$30 million (£51 million) five-album deal with Warner Brothers.

Leading article, page 17

Boy 'must tell about Jackson'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE boy whose father nearly ended Michael Jackson's career with accusations of child abuse may be forced to tell lawyers the details of his relationship with the singer.

Jordan Chandler, now 16, has been ordered to make a deposition to defence lawyers for a tabloid television programme that is being sued for \$200 million (£130 million) by Jackson over its claims that a videotape exists showing Jackson molesting another child.

The 16-year-old was at the centre of a scandal that Jackson hoped to quash two years ago with an out-of-court settlement put at \$20 million. In return, the charges were dropped and the boy was said to have promised not to give evidence against the singer.

Now a subpoena demands copies of any photographs and videotapes of him with Jackson and an account of the time they spent travelling and on the star's Neverland ranch in 1992 and 1993. Barring a settlement, Jordan Chandler will be questioned in camera on September 4.

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US claims China is building missile factory in Pakistan

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A NEW confrontation between America and China is looming over American intelligence reports that Peking is secretly helping Pakistan to build a factory for medium-range missiles.

US intelligence agencies have been watching for months as crates from China arrive at the site of the new factory in a suburb of the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi.

Washington believes that, when completed in a year or two, the factory will be capable of producing most of the major components of a missile modelled on the Chinese M-11, which has a range of up to 200 miles.

A confidential US National Intelligence Estimate reportedly warns that Pakistan may have developed nuclear warheads to be placed on its M-11 missiles. If true, this would give Pakistan a weapon equal

to India's domestically produced Prithvi ballistic missile. Asked about the intelligence assessment, Al Gore, the US Vice-President, would say only that the Administration had a "vigorous programme" of monitoring Chinese exports of weapons technology. "I'm not going to comment on the intelligence reports," he said. "We have an active ongoing dialogue with the Chinese on this very point. And we expect that they will comply with the provisions of the laws and treaties involved."

If confirmed, the missile project is likely to prompt renewed calls for punitive sanctions against China and Pakistan under US non-proliferation laws. America has twice imposed limited economic sanctions on China for selling missile technology to Pakistan, but lifted them when Peking promised to stop deliv-

eries. The two countries only recently settled a dispute about China's shipment of ring magnets to Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Chinese aid in building the missile factory would be a flagrant breach of the 31-nation Missile Technology Control Regime, which China agreed in 1991 that it would observe. Both China and Pakistan deny they are co-operating to build the missile factory. US officials believe the project dates back nearly a decade to a secret contract in which China agreed to provide both the factory and some three dozen completed missiles.

President Clinton decided in May not to impose sanctions on Peking for the sale to Pakistan of the 5,000 ring magnets for special centrifuges used in enriching uranium. The White House said it accepted Peking's explanation that it was unaware of the sales and would promise not to continue them.

The Chinese did not make a public statement but the American spokesman later explained that China's silence following the American statement indicated agreement.

In June, *The Washington Post* alleged that American intelligence agencies had "unanimously concluded" that Pakistan had already taken possession of Chinese M-11 missiles. This was denied in both capitals.

China yesterday demanded again that America stop the sale of 1,299 Stinger missiles and related weapons to Taiwan, warning that the sale would cause "new damage" to the already precarious bilateral relationship.

American officials say the missiles are defensive and will not give Taiwan a strategic advantage.

□ Taipei: Taiwan's military-controlled Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation will seek British help to spruce up 200 of the island's ageing F-5E fighters for export, the *China Times Express* said. No British firms were identified by name and the report did not say which countries would receive the aircraft. (Reuters)



Emily Lau calls for mass support at the launch of the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong yesterday

Colony launches political crusade

Hong Kong: Leading political figures met here yesterday to launch a pro-democracy movement called The Frontier and called for a "collective effort" to ensure that Hong Kong people after the 1997 handover "will finally become masters of their own destiny" (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

In a dingy hall in a community centre in Wan Chai, a vast working-class district, legislators and union leaders hoped the new grouping would "galvanise the people actively to participate in the political process".

The group's executives include the independent legislative councillor Emily Lau, who comes top in popularity polls. She said: "We want people to become more active, not just to sit on the sidelines and hope for the best. We want everyone to fight for Hong Kong's freedom. In 1989 [after Tiananmen] a million people marched. Never underestimate the power of Hong Kong people."

India puts range of weapons to the test

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

INDIA has test-fired its medium-range Agni missile several times. It has been designed primarily for deployment close to the border with Pakistan, although the political decision to go ahead with such a move has yet to be taken.

America has privately urged India not to deploy the missile, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and could reach around 200 miles into Pakistani territory. India is also developing a long-range version of the Agni, which would be directed towards China, with which India has fought one border war. The long-range Agni has also been successfully test-fired.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, the hardline opposition party in India, favours deployment of the short-range Prithvi missile in Kashmir to deter infiltration of separatist militants across the line of

control that divides the former princely state between India and Pakistan. This would mark a sharp escalation of the South Asian arms race.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir. Neither was then a nuclear power. The CIA has said that the Indo-Pakistan border is the most likely location for a nuclear war. Pakistan continues to channel money and materials to separatists in Kashmir, who launched a violent uprising in 1989, and cross-border tensions remain high.

The Prithvi has not yet been put into mass production. Pakistan is understood to have taken delivery of M-11 Chinese missiles, which are still in their packing cases but would be deployed if India went ahead with mass production and deployment of its missiles.

Khmer Rouge urged to join talks

Cambodia's Prime Minister rejects a Khmer Rouge leader's claims of innocence, writes James Pringle

THE Prime Minister of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, yesterday appealed to all the leadership of the Khmer Rouge to join renegade guerrilla, civilian and military commanders in peace talks with the Government.

The prince, son of King Norodom Sihanouk, was speaking at the opening of an international security conference in Phnom Penh hours after long Sary, generally said to be the Khmer Rouge's second in command, denied that he had any part in the killing of at least one million Cambodians during the Maoist group's rule in 1975-79.

Prince Ranariddh said of long Sary, now head of the Khmer Rouge rebels: "I do not believe he has really changed his mind. I think he is as responsible as Pol Pot himself for the deaths of all these people."

Prince Ranariddh appealed to Khieu Samphan in the nominal Khmer Rouge government, which exists only in the remote forests and rice paddies of northwestern Cam-

and then we could achieve real and lasting peace for Cambodia," he said. But Prince Ranariddh said that before any further steps could be taken, General Tea Ban, Cambodia's Defence Minister, would hold discussions with long Sary.

In an interview with a Thai reporter on the Thai-Cambodian border, long Sary denied at the weekend that he was Pol Pot's right-hand man. He claimed that as the Khmer Rouge leader in charge of his regime's relations with the outside world, he had no part in the formation of policies which resulted in the deaths of many hundreds of thousands of Cambodians from starvation, overwork, torture, and execution, before the regime was overthrown during the invasion of Cambodia by the Vietnamese Army.

He added that Nuon Chea, who was the Deputy Secretary-General of the Cambodian Communist Party, was the man responsible for rounding up intellectuals and diplomats who returned to Cambodia in

1975 after the defeat of American forces in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Soon after arriving in Cambodia, many of these people quickly disappeared. Some were worked to death in the paddy fields and others were rigorously interrogated and often then executed, long Sary said that his high-profile position in dealing with foreign affairs had resulted in his being named as one of the

senior figures responsible for all the deaths. "Wasn't this a tactic by Pol Pot to make his most prominent critic take all the blame for the reign of terror?" he asked.

However, analysts in the region question whether long Sary could be as innocent as he claimed, given that so many diplomats involved in foreign affairs and intellectuals were killed. "This sounds very much like a self-serving argument on long Sary's part," one Western diplomat in Phnom Penh said.

The initiative coming from the renegade Khmer Rouge has thrown Cambodia's population, most of whom lost at least one family member during the Khmer Rouge period, into turmoil.

On one hand, they desire peace, but on the other they fear if the Khmer Rouge re-enters government it could act as a Trojan horse to infiltrate and gain influence in the Government, unpopular because of a lack of security and extensive corruption, including drug trafficking.



Prince Ranariddh: "wants real and lasting peace"

Thailand to rebuild Death Railway

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

THE Death Railway between Thailand and Burma, where 100,000 Asian slave labourers and 16,000 Allied prisoners of war died at the hands of the Japanese in the Second World War, is to be rebuilt.

A Thai government spokesman said yesterday that Bangkok had conducted surveys using Japanese maps and the new railway would follow the original route except for a detour near the Burmese border where a dam has been built. An unnamed Japanese company is reported to have offered its expertise.

After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the Allies ordered the dismantling of the last section of the railway near the Burmese border. Only 80 miles of the 260-mile track remains, including Hellfire Pass where it is said that one man died for every sleeper laid.

The line runs from Bangkok to Nam Tok, 30 miles past Kanchanaburi, the site of the Allied War Cemetery and the bridge over the River Kwai. British, Australian and Dutch servicemen died of malaria, beri-beri, dysentery, cholera and lack of nourishment in the appalling conditions.

The completed track will run to the Burmese border at Three Pagodas Pass. The bodies of Asian slave labourers continue to be recovered in makeshift graves on this last section on the Thai side.

There are fears that if the line continues into Burma the Burmese peasants forced by the country's military rulers into slave labour will experience the same conditions as during the Second World War. Burma's generals have been accused of forcing tens of thousands of Burmese to work on another railway from Rangoon to Tavoy which joins the Death Railway at Thanbyzayat. Burmese who have fled through the jungle into Thailand claim that the military forced them to work 12-hour days without pay or food and that 300 people have died.

Mother Teresa, 86, amazes doctors by rapid recovery

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN CALCUTTA

MOTHER TERESA sat up in her hospital bed on the eve of her 86th birthday yesterday, wrote notes to well wishers, breathed without a respirator for the first time in nearly a week and left her doctors agog. Her heart continued to beat irregularly, but her persistent fever subsided as she recovered from malaria.

If all goes well, the tubes to the respiratory machine will soon be removed. On Sunday night she received her first visitors since entering the Woodlands nursing home five days earlier. A group of nuns from her Missionaries of Charity stayed briefly, offering prayers and returning immediately to their chapel at the Order's headquarters to give thanks for her apparent improvement.

Over the weekend her doc-

tors tried disconnecting the respirator, but she immediately struggled for breath. They want to take her off it as soon as possible in case it causes other complications. Dr S.K. Sen, director-general of Woodlands hospital, said yesterday that Mother Teresa was fully conscious and responding to verbal communications. He said he was impressed by her resilience, although the weakness of her heart continued to complicate her condition.

Doctors were concerned about her over the weekend and privately described her as fighting for her life. The city's Hindus, Muslims and Christians joined in prayers for her recovery and throughout India churches have said prayers for her. Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity head-

quarters are praying in shifts round the clock.

Birthday presents were delivered at the hospital and her headquarters. Work has continued uninterrupted in her homes for the destitute, the dying, the leprosy, the orphaned and the old. The slum schools opened as usual yesterday after the weekend. But there is an air of despondency among the hundreds of nuns and volunteers who maintain this vast industry of good works in one of the world's poorest cities.

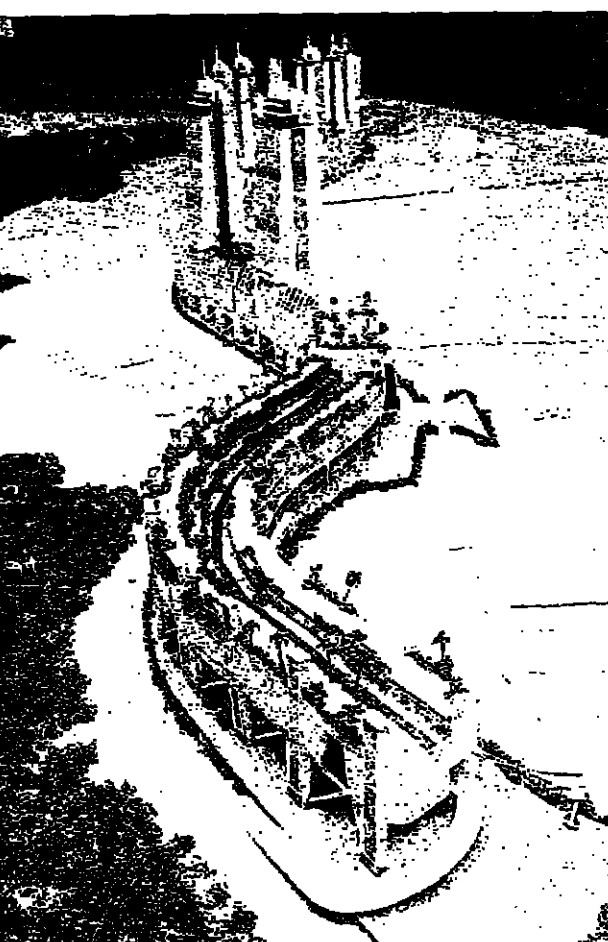
"People who have never seen a Bible are praying because they know it could save Mother," Sister Dolores, a senior nun at one of the homes for the destitute, said. Mother Teresa's Order has about 4,000 nuns and thousands of volunteers.

Malaysia in line for Linear City

Kuala Lumpur: Having pierced the sky with the world's tallest building, Malaysians are ready to build the world's longest.

Workers topped out the twin Petronas Towers at 1,483ft (451.9m) in February, and attention is now focused on the architectural extravaganza of Linear City. Budgeted at 10 billion ringgit (\$2.6 billion), the ten-storey tube-like structure on stilts is supposed to snake for 1.2 miles above the Klang River that winds through downtown Kuala Lumpur. The centrepiece of the structure is Giga World, a step above "mega". The open-sided building is to have a canal running through the seventh floor, an artificial rain forest, shops, restaurants, offices and a skating area.

Work on the first phase — a five-mile monorail through the heart of the capital — is planned to start in the next few weeks. The project is to be ready by September 1998, when Malaysia hosts the Commonwealth Games. (AP)



Linear City: ready for the Commonwealth Games

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OSPER

Day Two of our series: Valerie Grove on childhood preparation for greatness, Joe Joseph

Are some people born to succeed?

Rules of thumb that connect birth order with success in adult life all have their exceptions, says Valerie Grove

Apparently the Germans have a word for "The how-manieth in your family are you?" I can't think how we get along without it. Trotting off every week to do an interview, I make a habit of asking captains of industry, Cabinet ministers, bishops, impresarios, etc, what position they hold among their siblings. I am so used to the answer being "the first" or "the only", I have come to suspect that job advertisements contain some coded message: "Only eldest of families need apply."

Patrick Kelly, the new Archbishop of Liverpool, is eldest of four. The new head of the Royal Opera House, Gensita McIntosh, eldest of five. The woman who heads the Advertising Standards Authority, Matt Alderson, eldest of three. So too is Baroness Hollis, steering a Divorce Bill amendment through the Lords, and so was the new head of BBC radio, Matthew Bannister. All started life as they meant to go on: ahead.

Luckily I am an elder myself. My sister Alison was prettier, cleverer, more independent. But she was born 13 months after me, so no matter how wonderful she was and is, I always had a 13-month advantage, even when we were wheeled about in our twin pram.

The eldest has every unfair advantage: exclusive attention from parents, the highest expectations and encouragement, early responsibility. It is no surprise to learn that Lord and Lady Longford referred to Antonia Fraser as the Wunderkind even in the womb — how could she not succeed? The House of Lords, last bastion of primogeniture, is a cornucopia of eldest, but I expect most of the life peers too acquired their airs of confidence and self-regard, their belief in ability to conquer the world, at birth.

Peter Jay, Alan Clark, Nicholas Colridge, Simon Jenkins, Dominic Lawson, Vikram Seth, Jonathan Guinness (eldest of 11) are typical



BIRTHRIGHTS

eldests: Barry Humphries, the pampered eldest of doting parents, says his three younger siblings barely had a walk-on role. John Ashworth, new chairman of the British Library, was the eldest son of a bank clerk; Glenda Jackson the eldest of four daughters of a building worker.

Then consider the only children: Lord Jenkins of Hillhead ("A Late and Only Child" was chapter one of his memoirs), Melvyn Bragg, Sir Kingsley Amis, Sir John Betjeman, Norman Stone, Sir Rhodes Boyson.

"There were among us no black sheep, rebels or dropouts"

Sir Edward Heath, Roald Dahl. Sir Cameron Mackintosh, Dame Iris Murdoch, Harold Pinter, Clive James, Kenneth Tynan, Sir Peter Saunders, Sir Ron Dearing, Peter Mayer, Anthony Scrivener, QC, Lord Griffiths. Sir Peter Hall was "not just the only child of his parents, but the only child of a whole extended family. Adored, idolised, worshipped and mollycoddled" says his biographer. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, though not his mother's only child, was brought up as one.

And the Baby Benjamins of a large brood often grow up behaving like onlys. Sir Robin Day said he was "the spoilt youngest child of middle-aged parents". Keith Waterhouse: "I was an only child, the youngest of five." I notice that other factors often operate — absen-

tee or dead fathers; strong-minded mothers. Men who are the youngest with several sisters ahead of them seem to flourish: Anthony Clare, Paul Johnson, Lord Menuhin, Norman Schwarzkopf. And to be the only girl among brothers — like the Irish President Mary Robinson and Anna Ford (four brothers apiece) seems propitious.

Of course my small sociological survey is unscientific and riddled with exceptions. When I began to notice this, about 15 years ago, at a dinner party chez Hilary Spurling, we went round the table and established that all ten were eldest or onlys. "That proves my theory," I said. "You mean," said Hilary, "that only eldest and onlys go to dinner parties?" I pointed out that we had all married eldests: we were all conformists, all had gone to Oxbridge — that was another surprise — and got jobs of which our parents approved. There were among us no black sheep, emigrants, rebels, dropouts or ne'er-do-wells. How boring! everyone chorused.

It's odd that in fairytales about millers with three sons and merchants with three daughters, it is never the eldest that prospers. The elder two are invariably selfish and mercenary, the youngest is beautiful and good, and wins in the end.

In life, rebellious second sisters or brothers may simply refuse to enter the contest, and escape — my sister went to Australia. But when they continue to live cheek by jowl, as with Oasis's Gallagher brothers, the warring persists. I once read a poem in *The Spectator*. It began something like "My sister was the first to get a brassiere, the first to get a school prize, the first to get a Valentine" and ends with "My sister was the first to get a Zimmer frame, a day nurse, a coffin..."

Second children can amaze us. John Major is a younger brother in an elder brother's job. And nobody would ever have guessed that Margaret Thatcher is merely the younger sister of Mrs Muriel Cullen, farmer's wife of Essex.



Liam and Noel Gallagher, members of the highly successful Manchester pop group Oasis, still feed off their brotherly aggression

Learning the art of the possible

THE MIDDLE CHILD

feel that you lack an obvious role, and because you are still too young to realise that many grown-ups earn a very handsome living from working for companies in which they don't seem to have any obvious role at all.

Let me explain: if you compare yourself and your

siblings to, say, the fingers of your right hand (take a slug of vodka here if it helps you through this tricky technical exercise), then your big sister is the versatile index finger, and your little sister is the cute

little pinkie. As for you in the middle, even at your most existential, you are merely the potential for a rude gesture.

How well you cope with this relative anonymity depends on your parents' attitude to your arrival. By the time a third child comes along, its parents can feel a little overwhelmed by Mother Nature's bounteous mystery, though in the excitement of the moment they don't always express it exactly that way.

If a fourth baby then follows, that third child — who never even enjoyed the glory of being first banana — must now also surrender his role as the baby of the family. This can result in that child behaving in peculiar ways.

For instance, when I — a third child — was still running around in short trousers, I once accidentally dislocated my kid sister's arm during a game, and I would often tug my two elder sisters' pigtails. Now this was not because I was a beastly, psychologically troubled child who was struggling to assert my presence in the grey middle of this bathing order. It was because I was still young and unwisely about how society really func-

tioned, and still hadn't realised that you could employ Max Clifford to blow your trumpet for you.

I was lucky in having two elder sisters and parents who were keen to have a son who could inherit a huge estate through the conventions of primogeniture, their only oversight being to forget to create a huge estate for me to inherit.

Of course, being an only son in a gang of four has its compensations. After the second child parents stop worrying about what their children eat, or whether they can recite *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* before their first teeth are through. Third, fourth — presumably also fifth and sixth children — are left to fend for themselves.

If I were to head out, shouting "I'm off on my bike and I might stop off and blow



Peacemaker or a piggy-in-the-middle?

up Westminster Bridge on my way home", my Ma — though devoted to all her children — might manage an absent-minded "Ride carefully" as I pulled the front door shut behind me. And that was the case even when I was a child.

An insecure child might misconstrue this happy-go-lucky parental manner. But I don't recall being in the least bit unhappy as a child, nor particularly troublesome. My mother only confirmed this when I telephoned her.

"You were certainly the most mischievous of the four children," she says with her obviously failing memory. "You were a handful, that's all I can say. Much more than the girls were. Definitely more than the girls."

Tell me straight, Ma, was that because I was trying to assert myself in this sister sandwich?

how unaffected I have been by my middle-child anonymity, because otherwise she would have said "in your warped mind".

My mother tells me that she just assumed boys were naughtier than girls. And what's more — you won't believe this — she says parents didn't use to dwell on the implications of being a first, last or middle child.

According to the latest research middle children are peacemakers, which makes me feel like Henry Kissinger. Might I suggest that we are smart negotiators, rather than great peacemakers?

By watching the reaction when his big sister asks if the folks will shell out for the school ski trip, and then by watching how far his younger sister can push on sanctioning an all-night party the first daughter having not been allowed out of romper suits until she was 14, let alone been allowed to attend all-night parties, the middle child learns the art of the possible.

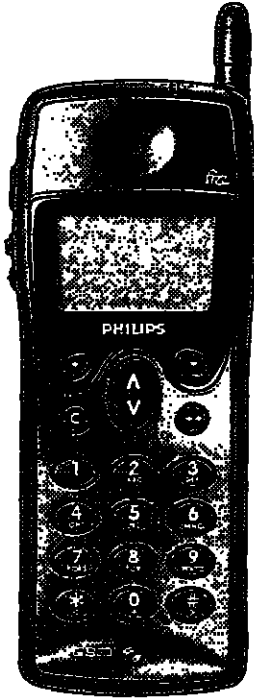
And you know what? It's the middle children who persuade those folks to greenlight the ski trip which also happens to include a drunken all-night slalom by candlelight. If only they'd called on us first, that Vietnam business might have been over by Christmas.

JOE JOSEPH

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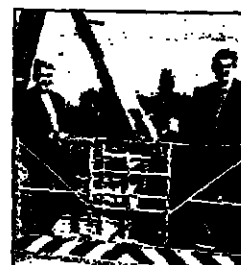
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TUESDAY AUGUST 27 1996

Masterful Mushtaq sends home side spinning to defeat as Pakistan win series

Inferior England run out of excuses

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (final day of five): Pakistan beat England by nine wickets

THE poverty of England's cricket, fleetingly camouflaged by victory over an ill-prepared India, is once more exposed in uncomfortable detail. Pakistan, until recently a team in disarray, overwhelmed them yesterday, playing cricket that was loftily superior in its skill, passion, variety and even, that most English of virtues, its application.

There were no excuses for England, no extenuating circumstances. They wasted the advantage of the toss, batted and bowled with equal profligacy over the first two days and then, on a virtually unblemished pitch, lost all ten second-innings wickets in less than two sessions. Pakistan won with 23 overs to spare and took the Cornhill series 2-0. Nobody could pretend they were flattered.

If this confirms the re-emergence of Pakistan, as was noisily acclaimed by what appeared to be their majority support in the last-day crowd, it advertised once again England's status among the also-rans of world cricket. Their record brooks no argument in this respect: read it and weep.

They have lost four series in succession against Australia and five in succession against Pakistan. They last won a series against West Indies in 1969. Until they begin to reverse this reprehensible sequence with a few victories against the teams that matter, no amount of enthusiasm from David Lloyd, or tenacity from Michael Atherton, can conceal the depressing truth. It is the standard of bowling that consistently condemns England and, until, or unless, Dominic Cork retraces his steps to better form, they do not possess a single match-winner. But occasionally, under pressure as they were both yesterday and on the comparable day at Lord's a month ago, the batting is equally inept.

On a surface where England failed to take ten Pakistani wickets, let alone the 20 they required, it ought not to have been beyond them to bat out the last day of this game. But they did not come close.

The top three in the England order aggregated 148 runs; the remaining eight mustered a mere 70. Yes, it was bowling of high quality



Wasim, the Pakistan captain, sinks to his knees in celebration, after shattering the stumps of Mullally to end the England innings. It was his 300th Test wicket. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

and pumping adrenalin set against them but on a day, like so many in recent years, that demanded old-fashioned virtues of technique and concentration, England betrayed themselves as incompetent.

Despite the loss of half the third day's play to rain, Pakistan won in a canter and, while England contemplate the easier pickings of a winter of bottom-of-the-table cricket in Zimbabwe and New Zealand, Wasim Akram is entitled to crow. He did so, claiming that his team is the strongest in the world and that Mushtaq Ahmed is a better leg spinner than Shane Warne.

These words are anything but hollow. When his team is settled and happy, a current circumstance for which he deserves much credit, their cricket can be breathtaking,

and when they bowl as they did yesterday, they are not easily resisted.

Wasim's tactics were clear from start of play. He threw the ball to Mushtaq and told him the Vauxhall End was his for the duration. Thirty overs of whirling variety and beseeching appeals later, Mushtaq offered figures of six for 56 for the day as vindication of his captain's faith. Five of the top six were victims of Mushtaq in one of the great spells of spin bowling in recent years.

The three seamers were rotated from the pavilion end, able to bowl in short, abrasive spells. None was more effective than Wasim himself. Everything in his rhythm was sweet, his speed was awesome and, by taking three of the last four wickets, he became the

Wide Tests	Runs	Wickets
Kapil Dev (India)	434	131
R J Jacques (N Zealand)	431	88
I T Stewart (England)	383	102
M D Marshall (W Indies)	376	81
Imran Khan (Pakistan)	362	88
A K Lillee (Australia)	352	70
R G D Willis (England)	325	90
L R Gibbs (W Indies)	309	79
C A Walsh (W Indies)	308	82
F S Troueman (England)	307	67
Wasim Akram (Pakistan)	300	70

eleventh bowler to complete 300 in Test cricket.

As he scattered the stumps of Mullally, out first ball to the shot of a village No 11, Wasim sprinted forward, left arm pointing skywards, and then sank to his knees in joy. He had little time to enjoy the moment as swarms of his supporters invaded the playing area, but in all other ways

it was an appropriate symbol for a series in which England were subservient.

This charge could never be levelled against Atherton, nor, in this series, Stewart. While the captain has had a modest return against Pakistan, his deputy has indulged himself and his total of 396 runs, at an average of almost 80, won him the England man-of-the-series award. Eleven overs into the day, however, he was out to Mushtaq, caught at short leg off bat and pad, and the familiar decline was underway.

Wasim bowled a withering first spell, testing the survival instincts of Atherton and Hussain, but it was Mushtaq who snared the critical wicket of the captain. Atherton pushed forward to a leg break, failed to smother it and spun

on his heel as the catch was taken at silly mid-off. His irritation was plain. Doubtless, he could picture the events that followed.

Thorpe did not settle and edged Mushtaq to slip during the fourth over of the afternoon. Six overs later Hussain, who had played with the character of one who will not be dictated to, offered no shot to Mushtaq and found the finger of umpire Cooray answering the leg-before shout.

Knigh followed swiftly and tamely, driving a full toss back to Mushtaq, and suddenly England's fate lay with Lewis. He was not up to the job, making only four before Waqar's speciality yorker undid him. Perhaps his mind was elsewhere, for the repercussions of his unpopularity are still being felt. Yesterday,

the Test and County Cricket Board asked Surrey to leave Lewis out of their championship fixture on Thursday, in support of his suspension by England. The county is considering the matter.

Atherton said he found the Lewis business "distracting", as well he might. He would

have found a different description for the rest of this final day, as Crawley's dismissal to a snorting short ball from Wasim prefaced the collapse of the tail and the execution of a simple run chase.

County reports, page 2
Photograph, page 2

Pakistan's captain joins an illustrious company

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

IT WAS straight, it was fast, and it was altogether too good for a batsman as poor as Alan Mullally. Wasim Akram, as fulfilled as a sportsman can ever be, dropped to his knees in the middle of the pitch and was immediately engulfed by his team-mates before, sadly and predictably, an Anglo-Pakistani mob drove them into the dressing-room.

By ending England's innings so decisively, Wasim became the eleventh bowler to take 300 wickets in Test cricket and the second Pakistani, after Imran Khan. The way things are going, he might be the last. Pakistan's international schedule in the next year includes only four Tests, which means that Waqar Younis, who has 216 wickets, may struggle to emulate his captain.

It is as captain that Wasim has made his most outstanding contribution in the past year. Last September, Pakistan lost a series at home to Sri Lanka and, when they went to Australia in November, they surrendered the first two Tests before regrouping in Sydney. They were grinding their heels for the World Cup, and did not care who knew it,

so their quarter-final defeat in Bangalore cut them to the quick. They burned offages of Wasim back in March, but he expects to return home to Lahore to be garlanded with flowers, although, in Pakistan, it is dangerous to assume anything.

Like Imran, Wasim is appalled at the state of domestic cricket, which makes it all the more astonishing that they continue to find players of such immense natural talent. Saqlain Mushtaq, 19, who may already be the best off-spinner in the world, could not force his way into the side.

Wasim, though pleased with his team's performance, fell short of triumphalism. "We believed in our ability before we came to England," he said. "After the World Cup, we knew that the only way we could answer our critics was by winning here and we have achieved that. There is no great secret to our success. We have stuck together and learnt from the mistakes of the past."

He sympathised with Atherton and was surprised that England did not include Caddick. In the end, it was Mushtaq Ahmed who did most to bowl Pakistan to

victory and Wasim has no doubts about his value. "He is the best leg spinner in the world right now," he said. "He is taking more wickets than Shane Warne and has more variety."

David Lloyd, the England coach, admitted that his disappointment was acute. "We should have scored more runs in the first innings and we fancied our chances of batting through the day," he said. "There is strength in our top six and great disappointment that, collectively, we did not bat as we should have done. Our challenge is to find an attack that will take 20 wickets."

This, though, was Wasim's hour of glory. Fred Trueman, the first man to break the 300 barrier, did it in his fifth Test, also at the Oval, in 1964. The youngest member to join the club was Kapil Dev, who was 28, and Dennis Lillee needed the fewest Tests, 56. Malcolm Marshall took his wickets most cheaply, at a shade above 20. So Wasim is in grand company and so fine a bowler is he that he brings distinction to it, as the only left-arm. Without a doubt, he is truly one of the greats.

FULL OWAL SCORES

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton b Waqar	31
(74min, 57 balls, 5 fours)	
TA J Stewart b Mushtaq	44
(74min, 51 balls, 8 fours)	
N Hussain c Sheel b Waqar	12
(22min, 25 balls, 1 four)	
G P Thorpe bow	
b Mohammad Akram	54
(53min, 85 balls, 8 fours)	
J P Crawley b Waqar	108
(25min, 217 balls, 12 fours)	
N V Knight c Sheel b Mushtaq	17
(69min, 45 balls, 1 six)	
C C Lewis b Wasim	5
(15min, 40 balls)	
I D K Salisbury c Imran Khan b Wasim	5
(20min, 21 balls)	
D G Cork c Mohin b Waqar	0
(6min, 5 balls)	
R D B Croft not out	5
(22min, 18 balls)	
AD Mullally b Wasim	24
(21min, 12 balls, 5 fours)	
Extras (lb 12, w 1, nb 10)	23
Total (99.2 overs, 412min)	328

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-64 (Atherton 15, 2-85 (Atherton 34, 3-116 (Thorpe 20), 4-205 (Crawley 55), 5-248 (Crawley 73), 6-273 (Crawley 83), 7-283 (Crawley 95), 8-284 (Crawley 98), 9-295 (Croft 1).

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 29.2-9-53-3, Waqar Younis 25-8-65-4, Mohammad Akram 12-1-4-1, Mushtaq Ahmed 27-5-78-2, Aamer Sohail 6-1-17-0.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Seaid Anwar c Croft b Cork	176
(57min, 294 balls, 26 fours)	
Aamer Sohail c Cork b Croft	46
(83min, 78 balls, 7 fours)	
Ijaz Ahmed not out	61
(188min, 120 balls, 9 fours)	
Imran Khan b Sheel	35
(113min, 80 balls, 3 fours)	
Sohail Malik not out	100
(250min, 223 balls, 10 fours)	
Asif Mulla b run out (Lewis/Stewart)	13
(67min, 44 balls, 1 four)	
*Wasim Akram st Stewart b Croft	40
(115min, 81 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)	
Imran Khan b Salisbury	23
(72min, 46 balls, 2 fours)	
Mushtaq Ahmed c Crawley b Mullally	2
(24min, 18 balls)	

Waqar Younis not out

(6min, 8 balls)

Extras (lb 4, lb 5, nb 16)

Total (8 wds dec, 159.1 overs, 655min)

521

Mohammad Akram did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-108 (Seaid 54), 2-259 (Seaid 120), 3-354 (Seaid 176), 4-394 (Salim 9), 5-395 (Salim 13), 6-440 (Salim 44), 7-502 (Salim 83), 8-519 (Salim 95).

BOWLING: Lewis 23-3-112-0, Mullally 37-1-7-97-3, Croft 47-10-116-2, Cork 23-5-71-1, Salisbury 29-3-115-1.

ENGLAND: Second Innings

*M A Atherton c Imran Khan b Mushtaq	43
(190min, 144 balls, 5 fours)	
TA J Stewart c Asif b Mushtaq	54
(150min, 100 balls, 7 fours)	
N Hussain bow b Mushtaq	51
(115min, 86 balls, 8 fours)	
G P Thorpe c Wasim b Mushtaq	16
(35min, 24 balls)	
J P Crawley c Aamer b Wasim	19
(115min, 81 balls, 2 fours)	
N V Knight c end b Mushtaq	9
(18min, 17 balls, 2 fours)	
C C Lewis bow b Waqar	4
(33 min, 22 balls)	

Extras (lb 1, lb 2, w 1, nb 13)

Total (82.4 overs, 365min)

242

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-96 (Atherton 34), 2-138 (Hussain 23), 3-165 (Hussain 43), 4-179 (Crawley 5), 5-197 (Crawley 5), 6-205 (Crawley 17), 7-220 (Cork 12), 8-235 (Croft 2), 9-242 (Salisbury 9).

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 15.4-4-67-3 (nb 14), Sheel 7-0-35-0, S-O-21-0, S-A-1-11-3, Waqar Younis 18-5-55-1 (w 1, 8 fours), 4-0-11-0, 3-1-13-0, 5-1-12-0, 5-1-18-1, Mushtaq Ahmed 37-10-76-6 (10 fours; one spell), Aamer Sohail 2-1-4-0 (1 four; one spell), Mohammad Akram 10-3-50-0 (nb 1; 3 fours; one spell).

SCORING NOTES: Fifth day: Lunch: 150-2 (82 overs, 210min); Hussain 41, Thorpe 40, Taz 22-7 (78 overs, 330min; Cork 18, Croft 1).

PAKISTAN: Second Innings

Seaid Anwar c Knight b Mullally	1
(6min, 8 balls)	
Aamer Sohail not out	29
(22min, 16 balls, 5 fours)	
Ijaz Ahmed not out	13
(22min, 20 balls, 1 four)	
Extras (lb 5)	5
Total (1 wds, 5.4 overs, 32 min)	48

FALL OF WICKET: 1-7 (Aamer 4).

BOWLING: Cork 9-0-15-0 (nb 4; 1 four); Mullally 3-0-24-1 (nb 2; 3 fours; Croft 0-4-0-0 (2 fours) — one spell each.

Pakistan won by 9 wickets.

Match awarded Mushtaq Ahmed (adjudicator: P J W Alcott).

Series awards: A J Stewart and Mushtaq Ahmed (Wasim-U-Ghani and D Lloyd).

Umpires: B C Cooray (S Lanka) and M J Kitchen. Third umpire: J C Balderstone.

Match referee: P L van der Merwe.

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Lord's): Pakistan won by 164 runs. Second Test (Headingley): Match drawn.

Compiled by Bill Fritzel

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RUGBY LEAGUE: WIGAN DOMINATION ENDS AS RIVALS REVEL IN TAKING NEW TITLE

St Helens seize crown with super show

St Helens 66
Warrington 14

By Christopher Irvine

THE first rugby league summer ended with a new dawn for St Helens and the Wigan era eclipsed. A sport in which the honours had been monopolised to an unhealthy degree for a decade has deserving new champions, who joyously secured the inaugural Stones Super League in grand manner yesterday at Knowsley Road.

A worn script at last has the fresh ending it had cried out for. Wigan's one-club domination, awesome as it was, was emphatically finished by St Helens, who have been hidden in their neighbours' shadow and have finally reached into the sunlight themselves, by their first championship for 21 years and a repeat of their 1966 league and Challenge Cup double.

Members of those two sides, whose gait recalled how long it is since St Helens last bestrode the domestic game, were warmly greeted by the 13,000 crowd, before the presentation of a trophy which, up until the kick-off, was Wigan's property.

Only victory would do for St Helens. Those who doubted they were rethinking after 53 seconds — and the opening try by Martyn. Twelve more followed in a celebration of all the finer points St Helens have shown in the campaign: skilled, high-speed attacking adventure, clinical finishing and staunch defence when required, which was not a lot yesterday.

Warrington played their part by laying themselves down. The steamroller did its job. Such a feeble performance, when they had the incentive of a Premiership semi-final berth, did them little credit. The last play-off place goes to London Broncos, who have troubled St Helens more than most sides over the last five months.

Belief in themselves has transformed bridesmaids into brides and left Wigan at the altar. For this, Shaun McRae deserves the plaudits. Displacing Wigan was not uppermost in the Australian's mind when he succeeded Eric Hughes as coach in January, but getting a side to have faith in their abilities was. The team is little different to the one he inherited. Mentally, however, the cracks are no longer there.

Ending a 20-year quest in the Challenge Cup, in April, was a turning point. "Wembley was the start and a great highlight, but this overrides it," McRae said. "If you win



Martyn gets in his pass as St Helens launch another attack at Knowsley Road, despite a fierce tackle from Roper, of Warrington

this championship, the history speaks for itself. Secondly, it means you on a consistency basis, and that's what we've been weak in, week out."

Wigan, certainly, are not the force they were, yet they are far from a spent one. Denial of a St Helens treble in the Premiership is a top priority. Significantly, both McRae and Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain and inspiration of his side again yesterday, stressed that although they had proven Wigan vulnerable — human, even — they would come again, quite possibly at Old Trafford on Sunday week.

Goulding, whose empathy with the supporters and anxiety to reward them produced an outpouring of emotion, said: "Wigan won seven championships on the trot. I don't think that will happen

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
St Helens	22	20	0	2	250	420
Wigan	22	19	1	2	202	320
Bradford	22	17	0	5	167	280
London	22	12	1	9	111	165
Warrington	22	12	0	10	108	240
Halifax	22	10	1	11	107	210
Sheffield	22	10	0	12	100	210
Oldham	22	9	1	12	103	180
Castleford	22	8	0	14	88	160
Leeds	22	6	0	16	55	120
Preston	22	3	0	19	38	60
Widnes	22	3	0	19	38	60

league in which all 12 teams — 13 with South Wales from next year — compete as equals is a long way off, but at the end of their long search for silverware, St Helens are now most definitely a match for their Wigan rivals.

Winning by a country mile removed any sense of uncertainty about yesterday's crowning ceremony. Any butterflies around were dispersed by Warrington's butterflying of Hayes's kick and Martyn juggling the ball and grounding it in the opening minute.

The prolific Sullivan and Newlove raced in for their almost obligatory two tries and within 12 minutes the game was up for Warrington. Forster stole a try back, but before the next one for Warrington, by Henare, St Helens

produced 30 points without reply. Hunt, pressing for inclusion in the Great Britain tour party, scored a timely hat-trick.

As well as seven goals, Goulding took his points tally to 18 with an interception try, a recurring theme of Warrington's abysmal second half. It rained on their parade, but, really, the sun was smiling on St Helens.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Hunt (3), Martyn (2), Sullivan (2), Newlove (2), Henare, Goulding, Hayes, Fogarty, Goulding (2), Warrington: Tries: Forster, Henare, Hunt, Goulding.

There are now two clubs locked together, and then there are Bradford and London. For my part, I cannot tell you how much this means.

Super League and the idea of elitism was about producing a level playing field. A league in which all 12 teams — 13 with South Wales from next year — compete as equals is a long way off, but at the end of their long search for silverware, St Helens are now most definitely a match for their Wigan rivals.



Goulding shows trophy

RUGBY UNION: FRENCH CLUB AGEN WIN FINAL OF FOUR-TEAM TOURNAMENT AT WELFORD ROAD

'Lucrative' offer ends SRU dispute

By Mark Souster

YEAR after amateurism is jettisoned, the Scottish rugby union (SRU) yesterday braced the philosophy of professionalism by offering native full-time individual contracts to the country's 56 players — 44 of whom are in Scotland and a dozen in England. he union believes, though, not every player will want to be in a position to, accept contracts, which range in value from £20,000 to £50,000 a year, generally, will run for one year and include the 1999 World Cup. It expects at least half to do so, though, the remainder opting for time deals.

The whole package represents a substantial commitment of about £15 million a year by the SRU. It already has debts approaching £6 million, though, that will rise to more than £8 million this year before being offset by income from the next television contract. But it demonstrates the Union's determination to remain a world force and has been warmly welcomed. Rob Wainwright described the offer as "very generous, the Union is to be complimented."

The impasse was broken by David Johnston, the Scotland assistant coach, who held numerous unofficial late-night meetings last week with Ken Crichton, the SRU's deputy convenor of rugby. This resulted in a radical rethink by the Union which then raised substantially its original offer, one that had been unanimously rejected on August 18.

Under the latest scheme seven "elite" internationals, among them Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, and Scott Hastings, the record holder, have been offered contracts which forbid ghosted newspaper columns — worth a guaranteed £50,000 a year; a further 17 "core" internationals will receive £30,000 and another 20 fringe-squad players, £20,000 each. Appearance fees ranging from £300 to £1,500 will be paid plus 50 per cent win bonuses.

Once promotional activities are taken into consideration, the elite players, at least, can expect incomes in excess of £70,000 a year, more than sufficient to stop any moving South, as several had threatened to do. In the short term, however, it will not be enough to entice English-based players to move north, principally because they have already signed contracts with their club.

The whole package represents a substantial commitment of about £15 million a year by the SRU. It already has debts approaching £6 million, though, that will rise to more than £8 million this year before being offset by income from the next television contract. But it demonstrates the Union's determination to remain a world force and has been warmly welcomed. Rob Wainwright described the offer as "very generous, the Union is to be complimented."

Leicester fall short on ambition

Leicester 22
Agen 28By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE cynical may ask what is new in rugby when Leicester, in losing the inaugural four-team tournament they hosted over the weekend, contrived a scoreline of five penalty goals and a penalty try against a team that finished in mid-table in the French championship last season.

Yet the tournament, worthily won by Agen at a rainy Welford Road yesterday, was a tasty hour's theatre to the world of professionalism. The organisers may not have recovered their outlay of £120,000, since support for the concept was thin, but it was a potent reminder of the need for English rugby to raise its sights.

When Leicester, runners-up in both league and cup last season, next face French opponents it will be late October in Pau, in the Heineken Cup — assuming that competition is played which, this season, is an assumption indeed. They will know, from first-hand

experience, the abrasive defence and the deft support which the better French clubs take for granted.

It was instructive to see how three of the four games played on Sunday and yesterday showed the brighter side of life — multifaceted moves, slick handling and, above all, ambition. Yet when it came to the final match, on which a prize of £20,000 rested, the ambition remained with Agen but drained from Leicester, who had weaved such magical patterns the previous day against Boroughmuir.

Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, acknowledged Agen's preparation. "The tournament was won by the best team but we got a lot out of it," he said. "We finished full of fight but we had only had a ten-minute team run before this tournament. I'm used to a full month of trial games."

To be fair, Leicester sought to play all their first-team squad during the tournament. Yesterday, Matt Jones, an England Under-21 representative who played in the student World Cup in South Africa in July, occupied the pivotal position and discovered the steepness of learning curves.

England unwilling to retreat further

By David Hands

THE protracted wrangle between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the other three home unions seems likely to end tonight in England's departure from the five nations' championship, though not all will consider this to be the worst possible beginning to a new season.

Some members of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, whose representatives met today, believe the RFU's retreat has gone on long enough. They take the view that England will establish lasting links with the leading southern hemisphere countries while their erstwhile colleagues remain in a second division of their own creation.

The television committee of what used to be the five nations' committee met at Heathrow tonight to consider the most

recent discussions — or lack of them — with England. "We will be taking a decision on how to progress to the first four-nations championship," Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, said, though the final blow will not fall until their decision is confirmed by a full committee meeting early next month.

"To organise such an event we need as much time as possible, having given England all summer to swing back into the fold," Pugh added. Scotland, Ireland and Wales plan a home-and-away tournament involving France, leaving England in limbo next February and March, though not their protagonists will argue, for long.

A regular international programme with New Zealand is almost in place, to join that with Australia, which will start

next July. South Africa are certain to follow, opponents of such stature that some, though by no means all, of England's supporters may be appeased for the loss of regular visits to Edinburgh, Dublin and Cardiff: critics will argue that Sydney, Auckland and Johannesburg are not quite so accessible.

There is little likelihood of BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, stepping back from the contract with the RFU, which created this furore. England believe they have retreated as far as they can. "We are using every endeavour to persuade the other countries that they should change their current stance," John Richardson, the RFU president, has told member clubs. "If we are not successful then the international match programme will be adjusted."

Cardiff enjoyed the best of the weather and the third-place game against Boroughmuir, which they won 48-20. Lee Jarvis, their teenage recruit from Pontypridd, scored one of their seven tries and embellished his performance with 13 points from goal kicks.

MOTOR RACING

Williams add fuel to talk of conspiracy

By Oliver Holt

THESE are the dog days of Formula One, the period of the year when the tensions mount, the intrigues wend their way into the minds of every driver and team owner and loyalties and long-held associations go the wall in a trice. Yesterday, cracks that had been papered over began to shed their camouflage.

The association between Marlboro and McLaren, one of the most durable, lucrative and recognisable in Formula One, has existed on a flimsy base of brinkmanship all season and now it has been rent asunder. The partnership between Damon Hill and Williams, so fruitful in the early half of the year, is sighing under the strains of the Englishman's pursuit of his first world championship.

Much of the tension in Hill's situation appears to have emanated from the fact that he and his manager, Michael Breen, are understandably keen to increase his salary next season as a reward for his probable capture of the title, after several years of accepting relatively low wages. The Englishman has delayed signing a new contract for next season.

This has alarmed Frank Williams, the team owner, and Renault, his engine suppliers, who are especially keen to enter their last year in the sport with the kudos of being attached to the car with the number 1 emblazoned on its nose cone. It has also led to suggestions that Jacques Villeneuve, Hill's teammate and the only man who can overhaul him in the championship, might receive preferential treatment from Williams and Renault in the run-in to the end of the season because he is in the midst of a two-year contract and is certain to still be at Williams again next season.

There is little proof to substantiate this theory, but Williams's contradictory instructions to Hill over the past few days suggest that he should make his first pit-stop during Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix not only to cost him precious places but to bring speculation about his treatment at the hands of the team to fever pitch.

The rumours include suggestions that Villeneuve has been given a more powerful engine and, whether they are true or not, there are subtle signs that their very presence is starting to unsettle the Englishman. He was

the soul of diplomacy in the aftermath of Sunday's race, but there is no doubt that he and those around him are aware of the suggestions that he is being subtly undermined, possibly as a bargaining ploy in his contract negotiations.

Their relationship, though, is still far from being brought to the point that Marlboro's and McLaren's reached yesterday. After months of speculation, Philip Morris, Marlboro's parent company, announced from its European headquarters in Lausanne that its 23-year-old partnership with the team, which has yielded nine drivers' titles and 96 grand prix wins, was over. Marlboro, which paid McLaren £30 million a year, will continue to pour money into Ferrari.

"We are very proud of our record and the association with McLaren which made it possible," Walter Thoma, the president of Philip Morris Europe, said. "There comes a time to reassess, but although our association with McLaren ends after the last race of 1996, our company remains committed to the support of Formula One and other motor sports."

Ron Dennis, whose insistence that Marlboro pay the same amount of money to sponsor a team that has not won a grand prix for 46 years as it had to one which boasted Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost is thought to have caused the split, immediately announced he had already found a new sponsor.

McLaren has signed a new five-year deal with the Reemtsma tobacco firm, which makes West cigarettes and Davidoff cigars and makes seven billion dollars a year from the sale of 100 brands in more than 70 countries. The team will be known as West McLaren from the beginning of next year, Dennis said.



Dennis insists

Biela settles his nerves with title

By Mark Fogarty

FRANK BIELA, the Audi driver, was noticeably relaxed and uncharacteristically effusive as he savoured the sweetness of clinching the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) at Thruxton yesterday, even allowing himself the luxury of looking forward to his title defence next year.

Biola, 32, of Germany, secured the drivers' crown with a stirring second place in the 21st round of the 26-race series, just failing to urge his four-wheeled drive Audi A4 past the Honda Accord of David Leslie as they raced across the finish line.

He then extended his unassailable points lead in the 22nd round, won narrowly by the Swedish driver, Rickard Rydell, with a thrilling third place in what was one of the most exciting races of the season.

"It's a crazy feeling," Biela said. "I've been working for this all season and now the work is done. It's been difficult, but I'm definitely more relaxed now. I think the last four races will be more fun."

Biola, who lives in Monaco, added to his unaccustomed animation by expressing a strong desire to return to defend his title, a preference he will push next month when he discusses his role in the touring car programme for next year with Audi Sport officials.

In the first race yesterday, Leslie avoided the first-corner melee which eliminated the pace-setting Renault Laguna of Alain Menu, of

Switzerland, and Will Hoy and the BMW 320i of Joachim Winkelhock of Germany, vaulting him from sixth on the grid into the lead.

Leslie managed to pip the hard-charging Biela to the post after slowing almost too much through the chicane leading onto the finishing straight, scoring his second win of the series by just 0.17sec, with Rydell third.

Rydell regained second position in the championship from Menu with a thrilling victory in the second race, holding off an inspired late challenge by James Thompson, who in turn had Biela's Audi on his back bumper as they sprinted for the line.

Although Biela is out reach with 248 points with four races remaining, the battle for runners-up honours between Rydell and Menu is likely to continue until the last round. The next two rounds are at Donington Park on September 8.

RESULTS: Round 21: 1 D Leslie (GB) Honda Accord, 28min 43.30sec; 2 F Biela (GER) Audi A4, at 0.17sec; 3 R Rydell (SWE) BMW 320i, at 0.17sec; 4 A Menu (FRA) Renault Laguna, at 1.37sec; 5 J Thompson (GB) Toyota Camry, at 1.51sec; 6 J Hoy (GB) BMW 320i, at 2.18sec; 7 W Winkelhock (GER) Audi A4, at 2.24sec; 8 J Leslie (GB) Honda Accord, at 2.24sec; 9 L Brooker (GB) Toyota Camry, at 2.51sec; 10 M Neal (GB) Ford Mondeo, at 3.1min 10.15sec.

Round 22: 1 Rydell 25min 08.88sec; 2 J Thompson (GB) Renault Laguna, at 0.33sec; 3 Biela at 0.75sec; 4 A Menu (FRA) Renault Laguna, at 1.37sec; 5 J Thompson (GB) Toyota Camry, at 1.51sec; 6 J Hoy (GB) BMW 320i, at 2.18sec; 7 W Winkelhock (GER) Audi A4, at 2.24sec; 8 J Leslie (GB) Honda Accord, at 2.24sec; 9 L Brooker (GB) Toyota Camry, at 2.51sec; 10 M Neal (GB) Ford Mondeo, at 3.1min 10.15sec.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1 Biela 248pts, 2 Rydell 171, 3 Menu 152, 4 Thompson 130, 5 Winkelhock 137, 6 Leslie 116, 7 Brooker 107, 8 Hoy 82, 9 Thompson 81, 10 Hoy (GB) Renault Laguna, at 1.37sec; 5 J Thompson (GB) Toyota Camry, at 1.51sec; 6 J Hoy (GB) BMW 320i, at 2.18sec; 7 W Winkelhock (GER) Audi A4, at 2.24sec; 8 J Leslie (GB) Honda Accord, at 2.24sec; 9 L Brooker (GB) Toyota Camry, at 2.51sec; 10 M Neal (GB) Ford Mondeo, at 3.1min 10.15sec.

FOOTBALL: NEW COACH MEETS PLAYERS AS BUILD-UP TO WORLD CUP QUALIFIER BEGINS IN EARNEST

Hoddle acquainted with England's needs

ROB HUGHES



Football Correspondent

FIRST impressions can be so very critical in sport. Yesterday, the first time that Glenn Hoddle was able to put on a tracksuit and to begin to design his England team for the next four years, was a day of organised relaxation down by the Thames at Bisham Abbey.

He stands among his players, at 38, fit and athletic as a 20-year-old, and with the ball demonstration to any one of them how the game should be played. Yesterday morning, when the first session began with limbering up and jogging and did not venture into anything more strenuous than head tennis, we were allowed to watch the first footings of a coach more determined than his image, a man striving for communication on the training field, where his term of office will be made or broken.

Of course, Hoddle has been in the job for two months. He has been watching, travelling, thinking, who, what and where to put into his side. He has dared to select Matthew Le Tissier, discarded by his predecessor. He has called up David Beckham, though at Manchester United the feeling prevails that Beckham is scarcely ready for the challenge and the intrusion of being a media star.

And, though his demeanour tried to hide the circumstances, Hoddle had already felt the torment, the loneliness, of being the England coach. Less than a week ago he selected his 22 players for the World Cup Group Two qualifying game in Moldova. By Saturday night the phone had rung seven times. Darren Anderton was out. Steve McManaman, Robbie Fowler, David Batty and Steve Hovew are doubtful and Les Ferdinand and Paul Gascoigne have slight injuries.

So seven players, a third of his intended choice, are walking wounded; that is plenty for the new England physiotherapists and the masseur to get their hands on, for Hoddle sensibly returned the calls and asked the club managers to release the players so that they could at least join his first week in the office, could listen and learn the style and the mode of what Hoddle hopes he can mould into a team worthy of restoring England among the upper echelons of the world game.

By afternoon training, Hoddle

den from the press, the players were sweating that little bit more profusely, being made to think that much more deeply. And there were among them two hastily-beckoned recruits. Andy Hinchcliffe, 27 and uncapped, had come down from Everton where his meaty, accurate left-foot play could fill a hole in Hoddle's line-up. Additionally, Mark Draper, 25, and also previously unconsidered by England, was on his way from the Midlands, where he has made such an impact as Aston Villa's busy playmaker.

"It is a bit strange," Hoddle admitted. "There are players arriving that I have never met before. It is strange to think that for five days they're my players, but after the week they then go back to their clubs and I don't touch base with them again for another five weeks. But that is part of my challenge."

The challenges stood all around. Head tennis can get pretty competitive, especially when the coach, he new boss you are trying to impress, would also like to win the contest. Hoddle will go in at the deep end this weekend, straight into World Cup activity, in a remote and foreign land in austere surroundings that never once challenged Terry Venables in 2½ years of home comforts at Wembley by way of preparations for the European championships.

Time is so precious and yet the nub of Hoddle's thinking is to expand the game. He acknowledges what Venables has begun; he will use 3-5-2 in the German mode rather than the more fluid Dutch system that Venables strove for. Furthermore, he is willing and eager to take on enigmas.

Le Tissier wryly acknowledged at Bisham Abbey that the word "enigma" is so often attached to him. "It's been a bit of a pain to me," the Southampton creator, whose last invitation to an England gathering ended abruptly and unfairly after the match in Dublin which was aborted after 27 minutes, said. Le Tissier ponders the question of whether his loss of form last season came with the disappointment of England's closed door. "I thought I would probably have to play a bit better than I am doing to get back into the squad," he said. "There is no hiding the fact that I am not scoring and that my confidence is not what it was. I would like to play just off the striker (inevitably Alan Shearer), but there are a lot of players in that category."

Le Tissier and Hoddle will sit down and talk together sometime this week. So, at the other end of the spectrum, will Beckham, a player still learning his craft, one who has been lauded so highly in advance that Alex Ferguson, his club manager, fears that it could interrupt the flow of his progression.

"I know what Alex means, and I agree with him," Hoddle said. "But this is part of being a footballer. David Beckham can learn from the way Alan Shearer handles publicity. It should be a big plus, being 21 years old, being close to representing your country... I did it at that age, I don't think it should do any harm."

Hoddle was succinct in explaining his two latest editions. "Andy has started the season very well, he gives you a nice balance on the left side. He has a smashing left leg. I was very impressed with him at Tottenham last Saturday."

And Mark Draper? "Mark is a footballer. He is my type player, quick feet in the middle of the park."

Hoddle might become England's type of man-manager. There, among the bodies training under the morning sun yesterday, was Graeme Le Saux.

"I felt this would be a lift for the boy," Hoddle observed, referring to the excruciating injury Le Saux is battling to come back from. "I thought this would be a change of scenery, we will nurse him and make sure he goes back injury-free." May Hoddle's England career start off as he means to go on.



Hoddle is in cheerful mood as he directs his first England training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Under-21s follow example of injured seniors

By Russell Kempson

GLENN HODDLE, the new England coach, has already experienced the frustrations of selecting an international squad only for it to be depleted a few days later by players sustaining injuries when playing for their clubs. Yesterday, it was the turn of Peter Taylor, the new England Under-21 coach, to survey the disintegration of his initial plans, forcing him into a hasty rethink.

Taylor has lost Nicky Butt, Jody Morris and Kevin Gallen for the European under-21 championship match against Moldova in Kishinev on Saturday. He could also be without Emile Heskey, the Leicester City forward, and wait until the Nationwide League fixtures are completed tonight and tomorrow before knowing if he will be without any more squad members.

But, the Manchester United midfielder player, has a thigh strain. Morris, of Chelsea, sprained an ankle in the 2-0 win over Coventry City on Saturday and Gallen, the Queens Park Rangers striker, hurt his right knee in scoring the winning goal in the 2-1 victory away to Portsmouth on Friday. Heskey damaged a hamstring in the 2-0 defeat by Arsenal.

Hoddle and Taylor agreed to release the Nationwide League players in what can be seen as a conciliatory gesture in the traditionally emotive dispute of club versus country. "Glenn and Peter decided to do it as a one-off," a Football Association spokesman said yesterday. "Otherwise, it could have meant the players possibly missing two matches for their clubs."

Heskey is receiving treatment at Filbert Street, with Taylor hoping that he will be able to join the under-21s at their base in Herefordshire tomorrow. Michael Branch, the Everton forward, has been drafted into the squad as cover.

David Connolly, 19, the Watford striker, has been ruled out of the Ireland squad for the opening World Cup group eight qualifying tie away to Liechtenstein on Saturday with a hamstring injury. "I am disappointed as David would certainly have been considered for a place in the starting line-up," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said. McCarthy is, already without Roy Keane, Terry Phelan and Mark Kennedy.

Although Colin Hendry was hampered by a groin injury during Blackburn Rovers's 2-2 draw at Manchester United on Sunday, Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, expects him to be fit for Scotland's opening World Cup match, with Austria in Vienna on Saturday.

"I have asked him to have a scan as a precaution and then join the squad," Brown said. "His problem is a deep-seated groin injury, but he has been playing and he should be OK given the extra days we have to recover."

Florin Raducioiu and Ilie Dumitrescu, the West Ham United players, have been kept out of Romania's World Cup qualifying match against Lithuania on Saturday. They played, after going on substitutes, in West Ham's win over Southampton at the weekend, they are not yet fit to match.

Philippe Albert, Newcastle United's Belgian defender, has also been omitted from the seven qualifiers against Turkey in Brussels on Saturday.

Andy King, the Manchester Town manager, has a "temporarily relieved" of duties at Field Mill after the side's poor start to the season. Mansfield lie bottom of the Nationwide League third division after two matches, no points, no goals scored, four conceded.

Keith Haslam, the Notts field chairman, said yesterday: "Andy has always been enthusiastic here, but, at the moment, he seems to have his way." King, who is a legal adviser, is scheduled to meet Haslam tomorrow to discuss his future.

Parkin, the reserve team manager, will take charge of the game away to Hartlepool, who lead the third division, this evening.

If King's departure is confirmed, he will be the manager to leave his season, following Bruce at Arsenal, Ray Clemetson at Barnet and Sammy C. Doncaster Rovers.

Cautionary tale for Ronaldo

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL BY ROB HUGHES

FOR the professional footballer, sport appears to speed up the life cycle all over the world, and dispatches concerning two of football's sons from abroad yesterday encapsulate the way that the game propels youth into riches and fame almost before they know what to make of it, and sometimes throws them onto a painful scrapheap prematurely.

In Barcelona, Ronaldo, barely 20, made a spectacular debut for Arsenal on Sunday night, confirming that his third phase of a vaunted career — in Brazil, then Holland and now Spain — is destined to become one of the great stories of our times.

Alas, without financial security, almost without friends, Reinhard Libuda, one of Germany's finest wingers, died on Sunday at 52. His career, his early fall and the pathos of his end is a salutary lesson for Ronaldo, and for all of them.

Libuda, according to reports in Bonn, was "the greatest winger ever seen". That, perhaps, is written with the kindly pen of an obituarist. True, this speedy, elusive player earned the sobriquet Stan after Sir Stanley Matthews, but Libuda, though capped 26 times, was one of three outstanding wingers of his era, and Helmut Schön, Germany's marvellous trainer, alternated Libuda with Jürgen Grabowski and Johannes Lahr through the 1970 World Cup.

It was Libuda's goal that

eliminated Scotland during the 1970 World Cup qualifiers in Hamburg, and Libuda whose shot, deflected past Lawrence O' Yeats, who won the 1966 Cup Winners' Cup for Borussia Dortmund against Liverpool. So, he made an imprint. In his home town, Gelsenkirchen, a graffiti artist memorably added to a religious poster that read: "No body gets around Jesus", the line "Except Libuda".

He might, therefore, have expected a gentler withdrawal from fame. Alas, Libuda became embroiled in the Schalke 04 bribery scandal of 1972, was temporarily banned, lapsed into idleness and drink, and then, though he appeared to conquer cancer, was to die impoverished, reportedly of a heart attack.

One's mind, on hearing the news, went of course to Bobby Moore, who did not beat cancer but who, three years after his untimely death, was honoured this summer by Fifa, who presented Stephanie, his widow, with a posthumous order of merit.

If Ronaldo, the boy who has been thrust so often into early manhood, knows anything of Moore, or indeed of Garrincha, a bewitching Brazilian winger of the Fifties and Sixties, who died a wretched death and who never came to terms with the switching off of fame's spotlight, then he should do two things.

He must, having cost Barcelona £13 million a few weeks

ago, and having passed through PSV Eindhoven, have reached enough to be a very wealthy young starlet. He has delivered, in goals, wherever he has travelled, and for Bobby Robson, eternally enthusiastic at 63, young Ronaldo has already paid a first double dividend.

When Barcelona beat Atlético Madrid 5-2 in the home leg of Spain's Super Cup on Sunday, Robson enthused: "Ronaldo was fantastic, it was the performance of an artist. Now people know why we paid £20 million for him."

Robson did not say that, had he been given the slightest encouragement, he might sooner have paid that kind of sum for Alan Shearer.

Ronaldo, scoring early and late against Raddy Antic's Spanish champions, owed his second and crowning goal to



Ronaldo: fortune

Giovanni Silva, another Brazilian, for whom Robson paid a comparative pittance of £4.75 million.

So, it was some first night for Robson, the new Barcelona coach, and for his star pupil. Both will have to earn their money; the pressures at Barcelona will from time to time torture them and they will be aware that the cycle can be cruel as well as handsomely rewarded.

Let them forget, in Argentina, the cycle goes around and around. Diego Maradona, having failed the simple task of putting away a penalty in five successive games, realised that, at 35, his chances are running short. He quit, again, and spent ten days in a clinic in Switzerland, to emerge, he believes, "cured" of his drug addiction. Another city, another cure, another trip to Fidel Castro's Cuba for the man so recently thought to be the "greatest" in his game.

While Buenos Aires awaits his homecoming, Cesar Luis Menotti, the coach who had the best years of Maradona, was starting all over again.

Menotti had worked outside the game for two years as a television commentator. He was lured back to Independiente and made a winning start to Argentina's Apertura championship on Sunday. Still chain-smoking, still living on his nerves, and still successful... no wonder they call Menotti El Flaco — the thin one.

Portsmouth test may defy even Venables's skills

By Russell Kempson

TERRY VENABLES, the former England coach, talks a good game. Win, lose or draw, his thoughts are worth recording. At Portsmouth, though, his latest port of call, it may not be long before even his limitless optimism starts to ring hollow.

Venables, now director of football at Fratton Park, faces a challenge like none before. Portsmouth, who escaped relegation by a whisker last season, are already entrenched at the bottom of the Nationwide League first division, albeit on alphabetical inferiority to Oldham Athletic.

They were beaten by Bradford City and Queens Park Rangers in their opening league fixtures, conceding five goals and losing two players to red cards, and need at least to show some improvement this evening, when Southend United visit the South Coast, if all the enthusiasm engendered by Venables's arrival is not to disappear as quickly as a sea mist.

A 2-0 Coca-Cola Cup victory over Leyton Orient, sandwiched between the defeats, has provided a glimmer of hope. With Orient having taken only one point from a possible six in the third division this season, however, the result can be placed quickly in its true perspective.

Still, Venables remains up-

beat. "In my short time here, it has become apparent that there is a nucleus of skilful and talented people, both on and off the pitch," he said.

"Portsmouth, historically, is a big club with enormous potential. If, together, we can set things right, then there is no reason why it cannot be made great once again. I see no reason why our dreams cannot be realised."

Dreams they may have to stay, though. Fratton Park is beyond redemption, with its archaic stands and cordoned-off terracing, and the club is losing £7,600 per day. Perhaps Venables will rue, some time in the not-too-distant future, his decision to turn down the many other offers of lucrative

employment that he received after leading England to the semi-finals of Euro 96.

Oxford United approach their game against Norwich City at the Manor Ground in good heart after the 5-0 victory against Southend on Saturday. Yet, for Denis Smith, the Oxford manager, there is still room for improvement. "I was very disappointed at the way we started the first half and how sloppy we got once we were in control," he said. "I had a bit of a go at the lads and they deserved it."

Smith was more satisfied with the individual display of Nigel Jenson, his £60,000 summer signing from Notts County. Jenson is the joint-leading scorer in the first division with Steve Bull, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, on four goals.

"Nigel's movement is very good and he's just too bright for his markers," Smith said. "It's nice to see that his teammates are beginning to tune into him as well."

Darren Eadie, the Norwich winger, will be able to play against Oxford after gaining temporary release from the England Under-21 squad. He will rejoin his international team-mates after the game to prepare for the European Under-21 championship tie in Moldova, which takes place at the weekend.



Venables: optimistic

Wimbledon prepare to cross the Irish Sea

By David Maddock

WIMBLEDON, the FA Carling Premiership side, are preparing to present plans to the Football Association which, if sanctioned, would see them relocate to Dublin. What, thus far, has been little more than a daydream, is fast becoming bold reality.

Sam Hammam, the owner of the club based in southwest London, has entered into negotiations with a strong consortium of Irish businessmen, who have made a £60 million offer for a sizeable stake in Wimbledon. The proviso of course, is that Wimbledon move lock, stock and barrel to the Republic's capital, becoming Dublin City FC.

It is a scenario which has meandered along for two seasons. In the past fortnight, however, agreement has been reached, and Hammam shook hands on a deal which will now be prepared for official sanction. At the weekend, he had talks with the consortium, a group that includes Owen O'Callaghan, a property developer, Maurice Cassidy, a promoter, and Paul McGuinness, the manager of U2, the pop group.

The first official approaches are expected in September. There is, though, still a sizeable obstacle in the form of the Football Association. Wimbledon have heard encouraging, if unofficial, noises from the Premiership. Sky Television and the

Football Association of Ireland. They have, however, to convince the FA. A source within the FA confirmed last night that it is aware of plans for such a move, although it has still to receive an official approach. The source revealed, though, an FA resistance to the plan.

The FA is worried that a move by Wimbledon could lead to a British league, to which it is naturally opposed. There is also the issue of Bosman — an Irish team in the Premiership could take out-of-contract players on free transfers from rival clubs. The consortium has pledged to the Premiership that they will not exploit such a loophole.

The consortium is hoping to present

the plan to the FA and the Premiership by the end of September. A leading figure in the Premiership said that a significant number of chairmen were behind the move.

If the go-ahead is given, Dublin City will play their games initially at Lansdowne Road, before moving to a purpose-built 60,000-seat stadium. Wimbledon fear certain extinction with the financial scales tipped against them as they now are in the Premiership. A move to Dublin, they argue, will guarantee large crowds and money to compete, but even if Hammam manages to secure the blessing of the FA and FAI, it will come to nothing if Wimbledon are relegated this season.

POOLS FORECAST			
Saturday, August 31			
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FROM DAVID MILLER
IN NEW YORK

Keywords: child sexual abuse; disclosure; social support

"I do not think there should have been a boycott, even of the first day, as a reprisal, which some players were suggesting," Stich said. "But I do feel we should have made our point more strongly, by arriving late to the first match, to demonstrate that they cannot treat the players in this way."

"I'm not disputing their right to make the seedings different from the ranking list, but they must show more respect in the way they handle things. My impression at the US Open is that the American players are favoured. This was so two years ago with Agassi, though I had no complaints at the time because he was

Stich tosses the ball before serving in his match with Haas in the first round of the US Open yesterday. Photograph: Mark Lennihan

Stich said that he thought a boycott would have been bad, because it would have penalised the public and innocent people such as umpires and ball boys, with the additional risk that there might have been law suits between administration and players. "We don't want that," he said.

This was the first meeting between Stich and Haas, and the former Wimbledon champion was well aware that his reputation was on the line against a man for whom so much has been predicted. In the event, although Haas ex-

Following treatment from the physiotherapist at the start

led into making simple errors.
When Stich double-faulted

The day saw an early exit for Magdalena Maleeva, the 27-year-old Bulgarian ranked 12th. She went under to Alexandra Olsza, of Poland, who convincingly won by 6-4, 6-2. Olsza, 18, was in last year's Wimbledon juniors final. Her mother, Barbara, was Polish champion many times and her father a player for the national football team.

WOMEN: Singles: First round: A Otsoa (Pol) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-4, 6-2; B Schuitz-McCarthy (Hol) bt M Miyagi (Japan) 6-1, 6-4, M Hingis (Switz) bt A Montolio (Sp) 6-1, 6-0; A G Sidot (Fr) bt Janelle Husárová (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-4; A Carlsson (Swe) bt G Pizzichini (It) 3-6, 6-1, 7-5; C Torrens-Valero (Sp) bt S Hack (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt G L Garcia (Sp) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; B Scheer (Austria) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

FROM DAVID MILLER

That is, obliquely, an unkind comment. Davenport's size has been simultaneously a physical advantage and her mental handicap ever since she first joined the national junior squad at 14, after promising development from the earliest age as a toddler.

Davenport lost 201b during the winter, and suddenly being big and strong seemed not such a disadvantage after all. Such is the transformation she has achieved this year, most notably when recording her first victory in six meetings with Arantxa Sánchez Vicario to take the Olympic title in Atlanta, that suddenly she is being spoken of as a US Open contender — even by Monica Seles, the No.2 seed, whom she would have to beat to win.

final against Steffi Graf, I bear the remarkable Graf, winner of 20 grand-slam singles titles, no ill, yet a new face on a women's grand-slam trophy would be welcome in what is effectively a closed shop among four or five players. The women's game cries out for change: Davenport could provide it.

Her hand-eye co-ordination was always precocious, and during her growing years the question was always when her body would co-ordinate to match her talent. It seemed this was happening when she took the US junior title at the same time that her contemporary, Jennifer Capriati, was winning the Olympic title in Barcelona. Davenport's results on tour, however, did not fulfil her potential. Up to last year, her best performance at

fourth round in 1993, and her confidence seemed to be on the blink again this year when she went out to Conchita Martinez in the quarter-final of the French Open and in the second round at Wimbledon.

Then came motivation from King in the Fed Cup in Japan

With victories this year over Graf and Seles, Davenport knows that she can make

To reach the final, Davenport would have to beat Brennan.

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104. 71 69 71 75 69 67 73 J. 69 68 70
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CONCORD, British Columbia: Greater Vancouver open. Leading final scores (U.S. unless stated): 1. M. 204; L. 204; 2. E. 273; E. 249; 3. E. 249; 4. E. 249; 5. 273; 6. 273; 7. 273; 8. 273; 9. 273; 10. 273; 11. 273; 12. 273; 13. 273; 14. 273; 15. 273; 16. 273; 17. 273; 18. 273; 19. 273; 20. 273; 21. 273; 22. 273; 23. 273; 24. 273; 25. 273; 26. 273; 27. 273; 28. 273; 29. 273; 30. 273; 31. 273; 32. 273; 33. 273; 34. 273; 35. 273; 36. 273; 37. 273; 38. 273; 39. 273; 40. 273; 41. 273; 42. 273; 43. 273; 44. 273; 45. 273; 46. 273; 47. 273; 48. 273; 49. 273; 50. 273; 51. 273; 52. 273; 53. 273; 54. 273; 55. 273; 56. 273; 57. 273; 58. 273; 59. 273; 60. 273; 61. 273; 62. 273; 63. 273; 64. 273; 65. 273; 66. 273; 67. 273; 68. 273; 69. 273; 70. 273; 71. 273; 72. 273; 73. 273; 74. 273; 75. 273; 76. 273; 77. 273; 78. 273; 79. 273; 80. 273; 81. 273; 82. 273; 83. 273; 84. 273; 85. 273; 86. 273; 87. 273; 88. 273; 89. 273; 90. 273; 91. 273; 92. 273; 93. 273; 94. 273; 95. 273; 96. 273; 97. 273; 98. 273; 99. 273; 100. 273; 101. 273; 102. 273; 103. 273; 104. 273; 105. 273; 106. 273; 107. 273; 108. 273; 109. 273; 110. 273; 111. 273; 112. 273; 113. 273; 114. 273; 115. 273; 116. 273; 117. 273; 118. 273; 119. 273; 120. 273; 121. 273; 122. 273; 123. 273; 124. 273; 125. 273; 126. 273; 127. 273; 128. 273; 129. 273; 130. 273; 131. 273; 132. 273; 133. 273; 134. 273; 135. 273; 136. 273; 137. 273; 138. 273; 139. 273; 140. 273; 141. 273; 142. 273; 143. 273; 144. 273; 145. 273; 146. 273; 147. 273; 148. 273; 149. 273; 150. 273; 151. 273; 152. 273; 153. 273; 154. 273; 155. 273; 156. 273; 157. 273; 158. 273; 159. 273; 160. 273; 161. 273; 162. 273; 163. 273; 164. 273; 165. 273; 166. 273; 167. 273; 168. 273; 169. 273; 170. 273; 171. 273; 172. 273; 173. 273; 174. 273; 175. 273; 176. 273; 177. 273; 178. 273; 179. 273; 180. 273; 181. 273; 182. 273; 183. 273; 184. 273; 185. 273; 186. 273; 187. 273; 188. 273; 189. 273; 190. 273; 191. 273; 192. 273; 193. 273; 194. 273; 195. 273; 196. 273; 197. 273; 198. 273; 199. 273; 200. 273; 201. 273; 202. 273; 203. 273; 204. 273; 205. 273; 206. 273; 207. 273; 208. 273; 209. 273; 210. 273; 211. 273; 212. 273; 213. 273; 214. 273; 215. 273; 216. 273; 217. 273; 218. 273; 219. 273; 220. 273; 221. 273; 222. 273; 223. 273; 224. 273; 225. 273; 226. 273; 227. 273; 228. 273; 229. 273; 230. 273; 231. 273; 232. 273; 233. 273; 234. 273; 235. 273; 236. 273; 237. 273; 238. 273; 239. 273; 240. 273; 241. 273; 242. 273; 243. 273; 244. 273; 245. 273; 246. 273; 247. 273; 248. 273; 249. 273; 250. 273; 251. 273; 252. 273; 253. 273; 254. 273; 255. 273; 256. 273; 257. 273; 258. 273; 259. 273; 260. 273; 261. 273; 262. 273; 263. 273; 264. 273; 265. 273; 266. 273; 267. 273; 268. 273; 269. 273; 270. 273; 271. 273; 272. 273; 273. 273; 274. 273; 275. 273; 276. 273; 277. 273; 278. 273; 279. 273; 280. 273; 281. 273; 282. 273; 283. 273; 284. 273; 285. 273; 286. 273; 287. 273; 288. 273; 289. 273; 290. 273; 291. 273; 292. 273; 293. 273; 294. 273; 295. 273; 296. 273; 297. 273; 298. 273; 299. 273; 300. 273; 301. 273; 302. 273; 303. 273; 304. 273; 305. 273; 306. 273; 307. 273; 308. 273; 309. 273; 310. 273; 311. 273; 312. 273; 313. 273; 314. 273; 315. 273; 316. 273; 317. 273; 318. 273; 319. 273; 320. 273; 321. 273; 322. 273; 323. 273; 324. 273; 325. 273; 326. 273; 327. 273; 328. 273; 329. 273; 330. 273; 331. 273; 332. 273; 333. 273; 334. 273; 335. 273; 336. 273; 337. 273; 338. 273; 339. 273; 340. 273; 341. 273; 342. 273; 343. 273; 344. 273; 345. 273; 346. 273; 347. 273; 348. 273; 349. 273; 350. 273; 351. 273; 352. 273; 353. 273; 354. 273; 355. 273; 356. 273; 357. 273; 358. 273; 359. 273; 360. 273; 361. 273; 362. 273; 363. 273; 364. 273; 365. 273; 366. 273; 367. 273; 368. 273; 369. 273; 370. 273; 371. 273; 372. 273; 373. 273; 374. 273; 375. 273; 376. 273; 377. 273; 378. 273; 379. 273; 380. 273; 381. 273; 382. 273; 383. 273; 384. 273; 385. 273; 386. 273; 387. 273; 388. 273; 389. 273; 390. 273; 391. 273; 392. 273; 393. 27

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TOMMI MAKINEN took a significant step toward becoming world rally champion with a brilliant victory in the

"This was the most difficult win — three days at 125 per cent effort," Makinen, whose success completed his third victory in the event, said. Kanikkunen, in a Toyota, finished second and Jarmo Kytölehto, another Finn, produced a double to finish third in a Ford.

Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, kept Subaru in the hunt for the manufacturers' title by finishing in fifth place in spite of a gearbox problem that nearly forced him off the road near the end of the event. Makinen's and Mitsubishi's positions were strengthened by the late retirement of Carlos Sainz, of Spain, with gearbox failure in his Ford. Makinen now leads Sainz, his nearest championship rival, by 32 points going into the Rally Australia event, which starts in Perth on September 13.

1. WARRIOR

CYCLING: Les Palmer, in his first full season competing in time-trials, finished first three times and recorded the fastest time three times, but still could not celebrate what would have been an impressive hat-trick of holiday victories last night. Although he won the Victoria CC ten-mile race on Monday and the Essex Roads CC 25-miles yesterday — finishing in 50min 48sec, a personal best by 2min 32sec, — he lost Cammish, nine times Britain's best all-round champion, among those he beat — he was undone by a frustrating afternoon on Sunday.

Palmer's entry for the Essex Cycle Racing Association 50-mile event was accepted in error because his club, the Witham and District, is not affiliated to the association. Nevertheless, he was allowed to ride as a guest and recorded the fastest time of 1hr 51min 26sec, but was ineligible for the winner's medal, which went to Ewan Hendon, who finished in 1hr 58min 25sec.

References

SNOOKER: Mike Hallett, the former Scottish Masters champion, was beaten 5-2 by Les Dodd, of Southport, during the qualifying rounds for the Asian Classic in Blackpool yesterday. Dodd, the world No 107, finished in style with a 63 clearance and requires just two more victories to secure a seat on the flight to Bangkok for the event's final stages next month. However, Paul Hunter, 17, from Leeds, who is regarded as one of the game's outstanding teenage prospects, lost 5-2 to Terry Murphy, of Ireland.

0 1 1

BOWLS: Ron Gass and John Bell, of Wigton, in Cumbria, a winning partnership from the past, flirted with defeat in the second round of the English Bowling Association pairs championship at Worthing yesterday. Gass and Bell, who were the pairs champions in 1991, trailed their rivals 10-4 and 16-11 earlier in the match and were 21-9 down before the twentieth end against Malcolm Holland and Robbie Robertson, from Skegness, but they ground out a single to make it 21-20 and on the last end scored four shots for a 24-21 victory.

5

MOTORCYCLING: James Whitham closed to within five points of Niall Mackenzie, the leader of the *Motor Cycle News* British superbike championship, with a double success in difficult conditions at Cadwell Park yesterday. Whitham, 29, from Huddersfield, held off Mackenzie, his Yamaha team-mate, to win the first race, which was twice stopped by crashes and then halted by heavy rain, by a quarter of a second. He dominated the second race, held on a drying track, from the start while Mackenzie, sixth on the opening lap, came through to take second place.

HOCKEY: A brilliant display by Zowie Tucker, the Wales goalkeeper, was not enough to prevent her country from losing 3-0 to Germany, the defending champions, in their opening game of the Junior European Nations' Cup in Cardiff yesterday. Cornelia Reiter opened the scoring in the 21st minute. Tina Bachmann converted a penalty just after half-time and Jenie Schweim made it three in the 54th minute. Two goals each by Purdy Miller and Helen Grant, the forwards, helped England to make a winning start in the tournament when they beat the Czech Republic 5-2.

Trial	Control (%)	MCI (%)	AD (%)
1	95	85	75
2	95	85	75
3	95	80	70
4	95	78	68
5	95	75	65

[illegible]

Health & Safety

[illegible]

CRICKET

Williams hits peak form to propel Essex to summit

By IVO TENNANT

COLCHESTER (final day of four): Essex (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (3) by an innings and 64 runs

ESSEX, as Keith Fletcher opened yesterday with his customary lack of embellishment, are set fair now. Their fifth victory in succession, four of these by an innings and plenty, took them to the top of the championship table. There was no aspect of this match in which they did not outplay Gloucestershire.

If Ilford has habitually been the ground on which Essex have made a start towards winning the championship, then in Colchester Week they have often taken a telling lead. The table. Only one four-day match is played at Castle Park now, which is a shame. It is the county's most attractive ground, the crowds are always substantial, and the cricket, as on this occasion, is generally enthralling.

This is also a ground on which Graham Gooch has often made runs. Essex will announce today that he will be playing for them again next season, although they will not hold him to his contract if, for instance, he becomes chairman of the England selectors. He does not want to look beyond September 1997 for the time being. Forty-three he may be, but he has scored six centuries this season, one of them here, averages more than 60, and is fit enough not to be a liability in the field. Fletcher still regards him as good a batsman as any in the country.

Perhaps Gooch will be able to play on long enough for a coaching vacancy to arise within the county, if not with England. It remains hard to envisage him ever living anywhere else — his parents are elderly, his children are settled at school, and he has a feel for Essex that is reflected in his

cricket. If David Gower had had the same affinity with Leicestershire, he would not now be in retirement.

Gooch led Essex yesterday in the absence of Prichard, who has a back injury that may prevent him from playing

TABLE

	P	W	L	D	BT	BT	PTS
Essex (5)	13	7	2	4	45	43	212
Derbyshire (14)	13	7	2	4	41	43	208
Leeds (7)	13	6	1	6	43	45	202
Surrey (12)	13	6	1	6	37	48	199
Yorkshire (8)	14	6	3	3	41	46	192
Warwickshire (1)	13	6	4	3	32	43	180
Gloucestershire (3)	13	5	3	2	28	43	158
Sussex (15)	13	5	3	2	27	43	156
Somerset (9)	13	4	5	2	27	49	152
Worcestershire (10)	13	3	3	7	35	48	150
Glamorgan (16)	13	4	5	4	36	42	144
Hampshire (13)	13	3	5	5	28	46	137
Gloucestershire (10)	13	3	5	5	19	47	129
Nottinghamshire (12)	13	3	5	5	30	43	120
Lancashire (4)	13	1	4	8	38	37	115
Nottinghamshire (11)	13	1	6	6	34	40	108
Durham (17)	14	0	9	5	21	50	86

(Last season's positions in brackets)

Remaining fixtures

DERBYSHIRE: Aug 28: v Worcestershire (Chesterfield); Sept 2: v Somerset (Taunton); 12: v Warwickshire (Derby); 18: v Durham (Derby)

ESSEX: Aug 28: v Yorkshire (Huddersley); Sept 3: v Warwickshire (Edgbaston); 12: v Sussex (Chesham); 19: v Glamorgan (Cardiff)

KENT: Aug 28: v Nottinghamshire (Turbridge Wells); Sept 12: v Hampshire (Canterbury); 19: v Gloucestershire (Bristol)

LEICESTERSHIRE: Aug 28: v Somerset (Leicester); Sept 3: v Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge); 12: v Durham (Chester-le-Street); 19: v Middlesex (Leicester)

SURREY: Aug 28: v Warwickshire (Oval); Sept 3: v Nottinghamshire (Oval); 12: v Glamorgan (Cardiff); 19: v Worcestershire (Oval)

WARWICKSHIRE: Aug 28: v Surrey (Oval); Sept 3: v Essex (Edgbaston); 12: v Derbyshire (Derby); 19: v Lancashire (Edgbaston)

YORKSHIRE: Aug 28: v Essex (Huddersley); Sept 12: v Nottinghamshire (Scotthall); 19: v Northamptonshire (Northampton)

Other than Russell, whose 57 came off 76 balls and included 11 fours as well as a top-edged six off Cowan, only Lynch batted with any sense of purpose. There were nine fours in his half-century, made from 79 balls. Most were driven through numerous gaps in attacking fields. Cowan, praised by Fletcher for the manner in which he has improved this season, had him caught at the wicket in his first over.

Alleyne and Smith went to slip catches and Ball was bowled off his helmet. He ducked into a short one from Williams, who, not since his heyday, when he was with Middlesex and so often impressed Gooch, has bowled so well. Russell remained, and did so until after lunch, putting on 44 for the last wicket with Walsh. Ultimately, he was out through cutting Cowan too uppishly to third man.

It is, of course, no coincidence that a year after Fletcher returned to Essex at the behest of David Acfield, the county's chairman — he has been given the grandiose job title of cricket consultant — they are

excelling in the championship. "We are not an outstanding side, but then there aren't any outstanding sides in the country," Fletcher said. "Yet we have played very well and, if we maintain our aggressive approach, are going to take some beating."

In an important championship match against Yorkshire on Thursday, by lunch, five of the six Gloucestershire wickets that were required to be taken had fallen. Russell kept the bowlers chuntering in his

cussed way, making his second half-century of the match,

but, if ever there was an inevitable outcome, this was it.

Williams, who has not been a regular member of the side this season, finished with five for 43, his best figures for Essex. He gained some momentum in the morning, and the wicketkeeper and slip fielders missed nothing. Such, who is more accustomed to standing at third man or long leg, took a beauty to account for Davis, the nightwatchman.

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Thorpe, one of six England batsmen dismissed by Mushtaq Ahmed at the Oval yesterday, is held by Wasim Akram at slip. Report, page 23

Captains turn somersaults but fail to secure victory

By JOHN THICKNESSE

CARDIFF (fourth day of four): Glamorgan (5pts) drew with Kent (6)

DESPITE Matthew Maynard and Steve Marsh turning somersaults in an effort to drag a result from a fourth successive rainy day, Glamorgan and Kent were forced finally to settle for a draw in circumstances that satisfied neither. If Kent were the more frustrated, since victory would have made them clear championship leaders for the first time since July 8, and the fourth time this season overall, it was arguable that Marsh's defensive field-placings in the final act were more of a factor than Kent's attitude implied when Glamorgan pulled out of a run-chase to which they had agreed.

Contrivance was always going to be needed for an outright result after short rations on the first two days and the loss of the whole of Saturday. It came, predictably, when both teams forfeited an innings following a Kent declaration at 323 for five after 55 minutes of the morning. The strategy was perfectly legitimate with Kent well placed to challenge for the championship, and willingly

agreed to by Maynard, the Glamorgan captain. Twenty minutes after stumps were drawn, however, Maynard was the captain to offer an apology, explaining to Marsh that his batsmen at the crease, Adrian Dale and Otis Gibson, the West Indian, had ignored his orders to pursue the target all the way.

Initially, with Glamorgan needing 324 at four an over, the odds may have been slightly in favour of the home team because after only 91 overs in the game, the pitch was almost unmarked and with little in the way of pace or bounce to help the bowlers.

Kent's hopes were raised when Steve James fell victim to the first shooter of the match, Idris to Martin McCague, and David Hemp was bowled by Dean Headley off an under-edge next over. But Hugh Morris recaptured the initiative for Glamorgan first with Maynard, then with Tony Cottee, with whom he added 94 and 136 for the third and fourth wickets.

At 165 for three, with another 159 runs needed off 29.5 overs, a good finish was in prospect. But then a 53-minute rain-break, costing 14 overs, appeared to make it impossi-

ble for either side to win. And so, no doubt, it would have been, but for Kent's desperation for the title and Maynard's liking for a gamble. They put their heads together and came up with a formula that required Kent to make a present of 50 runs through rubbish bowling, and Glamorgan to pursue the resurgent target of 109 to the bitter end, irrespective of the loss of wickets.

Unedifying as it was to watch, part one of the plan was duly implemented by Headley, who bowled the last five balls of his uncompleted over off a two-pace run, conceding 13 runs, and then by David Fulton and Matthew Walker, whose overs cost 19 each. Glamorgan were thus chasing 109 off the remaining 13 overs because after a lively start, Cottee and Morris were out in successive overs, and against Marsh's deep-set fields, Glamorgan lost their impetus. Cottee was caught at long-on and Morris taken by Fleming at deep gully, after completing his 48th first-class hundred.

The run-chase petered out when Gibson, and to a lesser extent Dale, stopped playing strokes.

Yorkshire frustrated by rain

By SIMON WILDE

HEADINGLEY (final day of four): Yorkshire (11pts) drew with Lancashire (8)

GREEN prevented a hat-trick for the second time in the match. Yorkshire thus went in to tea full of confidence, as Lancashire's lead amounted to only 25 and a minimum of 31 overs remained to be bowled, but light rain fell during the interval and, although the players returned to the field, not a ball was bowled before a torrential downpour descended and swiftly put the outfield under water. The match was called off at 4.40.

Gough's bowling was one of the highlights of the match. His overall return of eight for 101 was his best in the championship for three years and, for once this season, he outbowed his fellow Yorkshire seamers.

Waiting for the rain to cease was a poor way for David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, to spend most of his 33rd birthday. "We can't do anything about the weather and

we were a bit fortunate earlier in the game when heavy rain passed us by," he said. "All the same, it is frustrating because we were poised to complete an important victory."

If the result was frustrating for Yorkshire, it did little for Lancashire's peace of mind. They now lie sixteenth in the championship table, which equals the lowest final position in their history. However, on recent evidence, it is no more than they deserve.

On the first day of the championship season, Mike Watkinson, the captain, spoke of the departure of David Lloyd creating an opportunity for the club's senior players to run a "coaching cooperative" with the assistance of John Stanworth, Lloyd's stand-in.

Four months on, the plan can hardly be described as an unqualified success, though few doubt that when it comes to the NatWest Trophy final next week, they will all play out of their skins.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Essex v Gloucestershire

COLCHESTER (final day of four): Essex (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (3) by an innings and 64 runs

GLoucestershire: First Innings 280 (R. C. Russell 83, A. Symonds 52, A. P. Cowan 5 for 68)

Second Innings

D. R. Hewson b. Russell 1

M. G. N. Winfield b. Williams 1

A. Symonds c. Grayson b. Williams 8

T. H. C. Hancock b. Russell 8

M. A. Lynch c. Ball b. Williams 50

R. P. Davis c. Such b. Williams 7

M. W. Alleyne c. Cowan b. Russell 23

R. C. Russell c. Ball b. Williams 57

M. C. Ball b. Williams 9

A. M. Smith c. Grayson b. Williams 7

C. A. Walsh not out 12

Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 4) 12

Total 188

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-4, 3-4, 4-17, 5-30, 6-54, 7-104, 8-136, 9-144

BOWLING: Kent 15-5-35-2; Williams 17-3-45-5; Cowan 17-0-76-2; Inani 7-1-25-

GOLF: NO PLACE FOR RUNAWAY WOBURN WINNER IN UNITED STATES SOLHEIM CUP TEAM

Americans rely on seasoned players

By Patricia Davies

THE game is on. The United States have named the team that will defend the Solheim Cup against Europe at St Pierre, Chepstow, from September 20 to 22 and, this Sunday, the European side will be chosen in Orebro, Sweden.

It takes a lot to overshadow Laura Davies, and she did her best to upstage the American announcement by winning the Star Bank LPGA Classic in Dayton, Ohio, on Sunday, a timely reminder to the Americans that their money-list is at present dominated by a trio of Europeans — Davies, Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann — and Karrie Webb, a precociously talented Australian.

Davies, who was never seriously challenged, recorded her

"Emilee was not in the mix until 24 weeks ago," Rankin reasoned. "She certainly became part of the mix, particularly after the British and her missing the cut here was a non-issue. It came down to what I felt was her age and inexperience. These are extremely high-profile matches, coupled with the fact they are overseas. I chose players better equipped at this time."

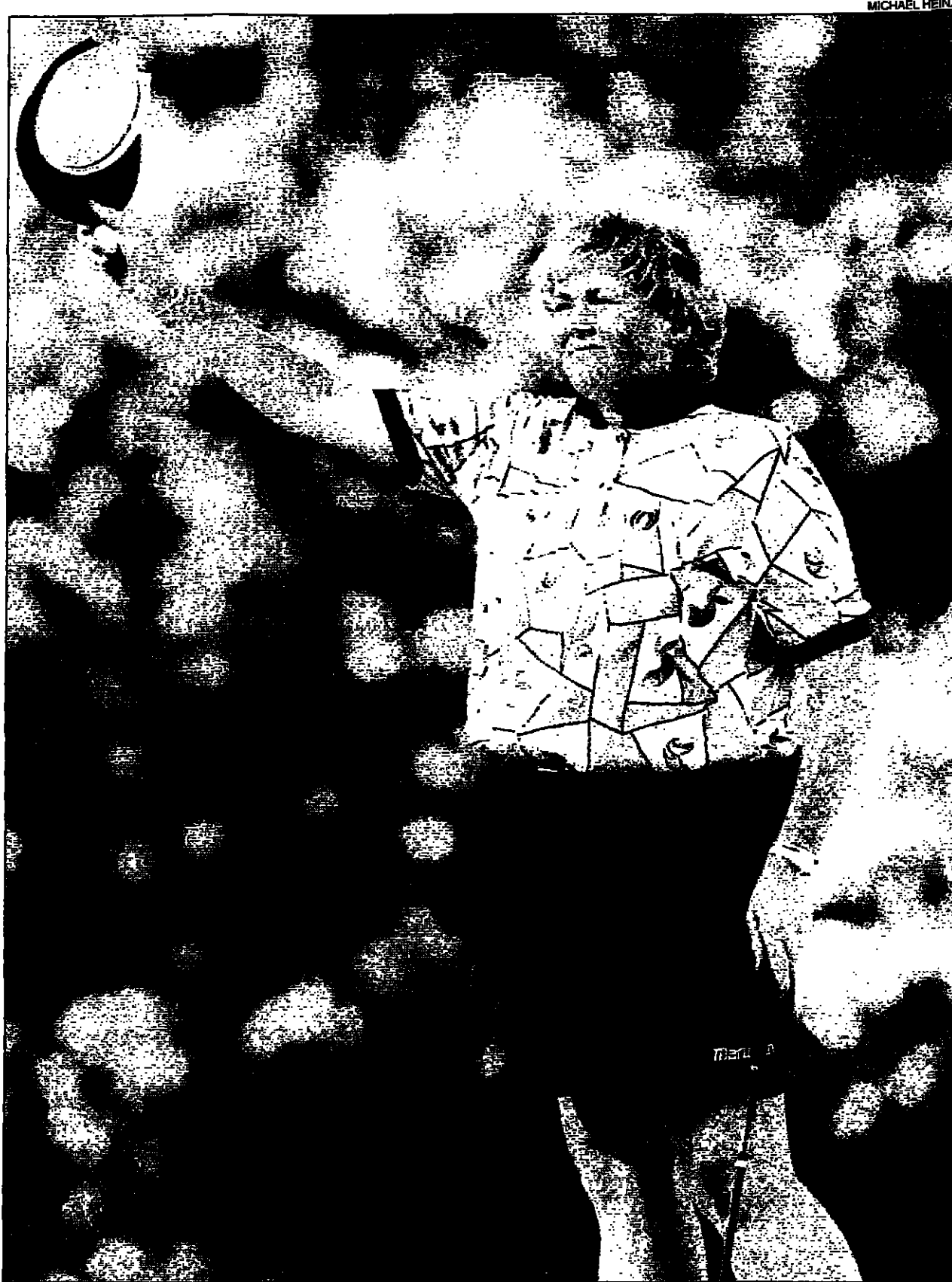
Klein, who made her late push for selection by winning in consecutive weeks, is only 22, but she displayed considerable composure and maturity at Woburn and she has a track record in matchplay. In the Curtis Cup two years ago, she won three of her four matches.

Like most captains, however, Rankin has gone for the tried and tested — although she resisted any temptation to add the lustre of Nancy Lopez, who showed signs of form in recent weeks, and still has an aura about her. There is no arguing with the quality of Daniel and Burton, although neither has won a tournament so far this season.

"In my opinion, Beth is the best record in the Solheim Cup, she's a good match player, she's one of a handful of the best players in the world, and she is good for this team," Rankin said.

Daniel, who will be 40 in October, has played in the three Solheim Cup matches thus far, winning all her singles. However, she has had trouble with bursitis in her left shoulder and a wet week in Wales would not be to her liking.

Burton, still only 24, seems like a veteran because she has been a professional since 1990. She was hailed as a superstar in the making when she won three tournaments, including a major championship, the du Maurier Classic, in 1993, but she has not won since. Injuries have not helped her cause, but working with Dave Stockton, the former United States Ryder Cup captain, has revitalised her and, like him, she is a fierce competitor. She won her



Davies salutes the crowd after winning the Star Bank Classic, her fourth American success of the season

SOLHEIM CUP

UNITED STATES TEAM: Dottie Pepper, Meg Mallon, Kelly Robbins, Michelle McGann, Jane Geddes, Patty Sheehan, Rosie Jones, Pat Bradley, Val Skinner, Betty King, Beth Daniel, Brandie Burton. Captain: Judy Rankin

EUROPE: Leading standings (top seven qualify automatically, with one event remaining): 1. Marie-Laure de Lorenzi (Fr) 123 90pts; 2. Laura Davies (Eng) 819.00; 3. Alison Nicholas (Eng) 815.33; 4. Lisa Hackney (Eng) 764.00; 5. Annika Sorenstam (Swe) 733.00; 6. Trish Johnson (Eng) 588.00; 7. Lisa Fairclough (Eng) 570.40; 8. Joanne Morley (Eng) 551.33; 9. Patricia Maurer Lehoucq (Fr) 552.30; 10. Katri Orum (Den) 524.00

fourth American victory this season with a 54-hole total of 204, 12 under par, to finish three strokes ahead of Maggie Will and Pat Hurst. Davies won \$82,500 (around £53,000) to move back to No 1 ahead of Webb, and also received the bonus of \$100,000 on offer to entice the year's winners to compete in Dayton.

For the Americans, the important business was the team and Judy Rankin, the captain, plumped for experience with her two choices, rejecting Emilee Klein, the runaway winner of the Weetabix Women's British Open and plumping for the experience of Beth Daniel and Brandie Burton.

three matches at The Greenbrier — where she partnered Dottie Mochrie, who has now appropriately reverted to her maiden name of Pepper — and beat Davies in the singles.

Daniel and Burton finished eleventh and thirteenth in the United States Solheim Cup rankings — Klein was twelfth — and the top ten, who qualified as of right, were, in order: Pepper, Meg Mallon,

Kelly Robbins, Michelle McGann, Jane Geddes, Patty Sheehan, Rosie Jones, Pat Bradley, Val Skinner and Betty King.

The newcomers are Geddes, a former British and US Women's Open champion. Skinner, a rare golfing product of Nebraska, and McGann, who has won twice this season and beat Neumann at the third extra

hole in the Oldsmobile Classic — but Skinner and Geddes have yet to win.

It is not a young side — the average age is 34 and McGann and Robbins, who are 26, and Burton are the only members under 30. Bradley, at 45, is the oldest player.

The Europeans will be a much younger side, but more experienced in Solheim Cup terms. Davies, Alison Nicholas, Trish Johnson, Neumann and Helen Alfredsson, who will all be in the side, one way or another — Neumann and Alfredsson already know that they have to be two of the

captain, Mickey Walker's, five wild cards — have played in all three matches so far. Sorenstam and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, also certain, have previous experience and the only definite rookie is Lisa Hackney, who won the Welsh Open at St Pierre earlier this year.

The other four names will be revealed on Sunday — Lisa Fairclough, Catrin Nilsmark and Dale Reid could well be three of them — and Davies was typically optimistic about Europe's chances. "They're getting older," she said, "and we're getting better."

PARALYMPIC GAMES

Britain takes golden haul amid the chaos

By Alex Ramsay

WITH a final flourish of borrowed flags and a huge sigh of relief, the tenth Paralympic Games stumbled to a close late on Sunday night in Atlanta. After ten days of organised chaos, the Games reached their conclusion in spite of, rather than because of, the involvement of the Olympic movement.

Such was the level of confusion and disorganisation that the Switzerland team refused to take part in the closing ceremony, boycotting the event as a protest and blaming the Atlanta organising committee (Apoc) for the problems that they had encountered.

The Paralympics — the parallel Olympics — are the showcase for disability sport. For the athletes, the Games represent the ultimate goal: for the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), they are a chance to prove the growing stature and quality of their movement; and, for the International Olympic Committee (IOC), they are a necessary, if at times irritating, addendum to the greatest sporting show on earth.

In Barcelona and Lillehammer, in 1992 and 1994, the Olympic and Paralympic organisers worked together to prepare for both Games. Facilities, resources and sponsors were shared. In Atlanta, the Olympic organising committee, Apoc, having failed miserably to run the Olympics successfully, then ignored the Paralympics completely. It even sold the international flags that fluttered around the athletics stadium to Sydney the minute that the Olympics were finished, leaving the Paralympics flagless until the Sydney organisers loaned them back for the duration. Apoc tried its best, but was hamstrung from the start.

The representatives from Sydney have seen what Atlanta had to offer and have learnt a few lessons. They saw the public stay away rather than pay to watch the Atlanta Games and are now rethinking their plans to raise \$50 million through sponsorship and ticket sales in Australia. They may now allow free access to all the sports to recreate the atmosphere of Barcelona, where the athletics and swimming venues were packed.

Yet, regardless of the mayhem behind the scenes, the athletes got on with the business of winning medals. More than 100 world and Paralympic records were broken in

the biggest Games — more than 4,000 athletes — from the widest international field — 127 countries. By the time that Tom Evans carried the Union Jack at the closing ceremony, Great Britain were in fourth place in the medals table.

Chris Holmes took to the pool for the last time on Sunday night to win his third gold medal of the Games, winning the B2 50 metres freestyle. It gave Britain a final tally of 39 gold medals, 42 silvers and 41 bronzes, and left them just one gold medal behind Germany. Although not as impressive a record as in Barcelona, where Britain finished third with 40 golds and 128 medals in all, it is not a sign of failure.

Tony Sainsbury, the chief de mission of the British Paralympic Association, said: "I'm delighted because I said after Barcelona we would need to have a wider spread of medals if we were to maintain and develop our position as one of the top nations in the

MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	46	46	65	157
Australia	40	37	27	104
Germany	40	36	51	127
Great Britain	39	42	41	122
France	36	31	31	98
Canada	24	21	24	69
Holland	17	17	17	51
China	16	13	19	48
Japan	14	18	12	44
Poland	13	14	8	35

world. We have done that and I don't think we've reached our full potential even yet, which probably has something to do with the age of some of the members of the team. This is the best team I've ever worked with."

In the four years since Barcelona, many more athletes have come to the fore, overall standards have increased dramatically and Holmes, who regularly trains with his Olympic counterparts, now believes that the only way to compete with the top nations at the Paralympics is to mirror Olympic training schedules. Already, many of the top Paralympic athletes devote themselves entirely to their sports and are professionals — albeit financially limited professionals. Which begs the question: How is it that the athletes, working on a shoestring budget, can produce the best in the world, when Atlanta, with all its claims to finance, support and sponsorship, could not get even the buses to run on time?

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I discussed this hand a few weeks ago. I said that I went wrong in not foreseeing that I would be squeezed on the run of dummy's long suit. Mr X (his signature is illegible) has written to say that I should still have recovered.

Dealer North North-South game Aggregate scoring

	W	N	E	S
1	♦A73	♦K10984	♦K10984	♦KQ32
2	♥A87	♥A	♥A	♥86
3	♦KJ109832	♦S	♦S	♦Q4
4	♠95	♠QJ5	♠A87	♠AKJ8

	W	N	E	S
1	Davies	Simpson	Townsend	Sheehan
2	Pass	Pass	2D(1)	Dble
3	All Pass	3C	Pass	3NT

Contract: 3 NT by South Lead: King of diamonds

Showing a hand in the 3-10 age, at least five-four in the majors.

I picked the opening lead and continued diamonds; cashing the ace and king clubs. I belatedly realised on the fifth round of ♠ that I would have no good guard the spades or let a ♠ heart go. I made what I thought was the best of a bad heart at that point by laying down the ace of hearts, hoping ♠ West had a singleton ♠ J, but when he followed ♠ A, I had to go off.

I then took the second diamond and cashed the ace and

king of clubs, the hand is lay-down. All I had to do at trick five was lead a low heart. If West follows, that will be his last heart — East is marked with at least four for his opening bid. Having set up the marked heart finesse, I could then have safely discarded a spade on the fifth club.

The championship teams event at the EBU Summer Congress in Brighton was won by a team of experts from Indonesia. They fended off challenges from teams headed by David Price, Ian Monaghan and Sandra Landy.

Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ERROON
a mixed-layer clay
a name of an ancient
tribe
RISTIKE
a village on the
coast
a game

c. To be elated or euphoric
THAKIN
a. A term of respectful address
b. A cake
c. A form of rheumatism
WISKINKIE
a. A witicism or clever remark
b. A fortune teller
c. A door-keeper

Answers on page 40

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov's record

In the important Vienna tournament, in which many of the world's top players were competing, Anatoly Karpov, the five-time world champion, added to his extraordinary tally of outright or shared first prizes. This has now reached a world record of 140 tournament victories. In this case, he had to share the laurels with Boris Gelfand, the Belorussian grandmaster, and Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Bank of Austria
Vienna, August 1996

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c5
2	d4	c5
3	e5	Bb5
4	Nf3	e6
5	Bc2	Nc7
6	O-O	Cc5
7	Kd1	Nb6
8	Nc3	dxc4
9	Qxc4	Nd5
10	Nd4	Nxc3
11	bxc3	Bxc5
12	Nd5	e4d5
13	Bxc4	Bd7
14	Kd1	Qc7
15	Rd1	Nb6
16	Bb5+	Nc5
17	Ba3	g6
18	Rab1	Kf7
19	Rd7+	Kg6
20	Rf1	Ba3

Bank of Austria, Vienna, final cross-table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Gelfand	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	Karpov	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	Topalov	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	Leko	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	Ponomarev	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
6	Kramnik	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
7	Shirov	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
8	Yusupov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
9	Elisei	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10	Korchnoi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

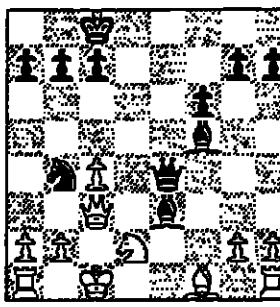
In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Sarmiento — Antizarbal, Colombia, 1996. A pair of bishops in an open position can be a very powerful force. In this position, Black has only one piece against two rooks, but the fantastic activity of his bishops enables him to score a quick win. Can you see how?

Solution on page 40



Woods wins Amateur title after play-off

By Our Sports Staff

TIGER WOODS defeated Steve Scott on the second hole of a sudden-death play-off to win a record third consecutive US Amateur championship on Sunday.

Woods trailed by five holes at one stage during the 36-hole matchplay final, and by two holes with just three to play, but he birdied the 16th and 17th holes, rolling in a 30-foot putt at the 17th to square the match.

After both players made par on the first play-off hole, Woods hit a six-iron to within eight feet of the pin on the 204-yard 10th and, although he missed his birdie attempt, Scott clipped his par putt to enable Woods to tap in for the win.

Woods, 20, became the first golfer to win the US Amateur title in three successive years. He also won US Junior Amateurs in 1991, 1992 and 1993 and joins Bobby Jones as the only golfer to win US Golf Association events in six consecutive years.

Woods receives automatic entry into the Masters and US Open next year, if he is still an amateur. He intends to play as an amateur in the Greater Milwaukee Open next week, but has said that he will turn professional if he wins the event.

Phil Mickelson birdied two of the last three holes to win the World Series of Golf in Akron, Ohio, by three strokes from Billy Mayfair, his fellow American, on Sunday. It was the fourth tournament win this year for Mickelson, who shot a level-par 70, for a four-round total of 274, six under par, after being tied for the lead with Mayfair with three holes to play. Nick Faldo, of Great Britain, finished with a 74 for a total of 283.

Giddins harshly treated

From Mr Daniel Cullen

Sir, The Test and County Cricket Board has been unnecessarily draconian in its treatment of Ed Giddins (report, August 21). As cocaine is obviously not a performance-enhancing drug, Giddins's ban stems, presumably, from the way in which he has let himself down as a role model.

This raises two issues. First, is Giddins any less a role model than, for example, the Arsenal footballer, Paul Merson, and, second, what about Hollywood actors? They also appear on bedroom walls, advertise products and inspire through their films.

But do they, having admitted to cocaine addiction, find themselves banned from making films for 19 months? No, they find themselves in the pages of glossy magazines, with plenty of sympathy and inflated bank accounts. Giddins, who is not as well known as Merson or a number of Hollywood actors (and therefore not as important a role model) is out of work after a single misdemeanour.

Nobody can condone what he has done, but the TCCB has surely overreacted. As for putting at risk players and officials, what exactly does the board have in mind? Does it suspect that he will try to "deal" as he walks back to his mark?

Yours sincerely,
DANIEL CULLEN,
12 Byland Close,
Cuckfield, West Sussex.

Record breakers

From Mr P. J. Brain

Sir, I am surprised that Julian Muscat (August 21) felt the manner of Halling's win in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York was worthy of the eulogies he accorded the horse.

He stated: "Halling shattered the international race record by 1.54sec — the equivalent of around eight lengths".

SPORTS LETTERS

Giddins harshly treated

From Dr Michael O'Donnell

Sir, Your Cricket Correspondent suggests that the sport is entering a murky area if it takes on the problems of society, like the use of cocaine, in circumstances where drugs have been taken by sportsmen for reasons other than to enhance performance.

A spokesman for the Test and County Cricket Board, speaking on television, justified this adoption of a social role by saying the sport had a responsibility to set a good example to young people. If that is so, how can cricket justify accepting sponsorship from the manufacturers of an addictive drug responsible for the death of more than 100,000 people in Britain every year?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL O'DONNELL,
Handon Cottage,
Markwick Lane, Loxhill,
Godalming, Surrey.

From Mrs Susan Pyke

Sir, Why should an imposed suspension end Ed Giddins's career? Provided he can keep out of trouble for 19 months, other clubs may well take him on. Cricket-wise, he will be better off than others who have been kept away by injury or illness and who cannot even begin to practise, let alone play, until they have recovered, a process that can take months and sometimes years.

Yours sincerely,
SUSAN PIKE,
22 Victoria Street,
Alderney, Channel Islands.

Record breakers

From Mr P. J. Brain

Sir, I am surprised that Julian Muscat (August 21) felt the manner of Halling's win in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York was worthy of the eulogies he accorded the horse.

He stated: "Halling shattered the international race record by 1.54sec — the equivalent of around eight lengths".

Priced out of market

From Mr Paul Hutton

Sir, After reading your article on Premiership admission prices (August 17), together with the indication of ticket availability for each of the following day's matches, I am not sure whether to laugh or cry.

It is my son's eleventh birthday in mid-September so I intended to take him and three friends to see a Premiership match. I got the fixture list out, looking for anything within an hour and an hour-and-a-half's travelling time being played between September 7 and 22. After that, the fun ended: I was given a whole variety of answers, ranging from:

"Family stand only available for club members. There are no discounted seats anywhere else in the ground, price per seat from £20.25"

"No chance, our supporters club will take all of the seats"

"All discounted schemes are suspended. Seats available at £28 each"

"You'll be better off buying Sky"

Consequently, I am not impressed. It certainly seems a case of squeezing the public till it hurts, with little thought for the future live audience.

So, we are off to see Queens Park Rangers, who do (and always did) care about junior football fans. Equally, we will stick to our local Vauxhall Conference teams who do cater for families.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL HUTTON,
13 Fellows Road,
Farnborough,
Hampshire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+2	+7	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10301	M Boshnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	0	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	+10	+7	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-4	-7	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	-1	-2	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	+15	+15	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
10701	S Ogrtovic	Coventry City	1.50	-5	-10	
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-4	-9	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	-1	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	+5	-4	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+2	+7	
11102	J Kearton	Everton	0.50	0	0	
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	0	
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	-7	-11	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+5	+10	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-5	-10	
11501	M Beoney	Leeds United	1.50	0	0	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11601	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	-3	-8	
11602	K Poole	Leeds United	1.00	0	0	
11603	Z Kalac	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	+10	+5	
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11801	P Schmetchel	Manchester United	5.00	-7	-2	
11802	R Van Der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	0	
11803	T Coton	Sunderland	1.00	+4	+9	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2	-7	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	+6	+3	
12101	S Hiskop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-3	
12102	P Smilek	Newcastle United	3.00	+2	+2	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-8	-3	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5	-12	
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	+5	+2	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+4	+3	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	-1	-1	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	0	
12603	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+4	+9	
12901	L Mideko	West Ham United	2.00	-2	-5	
12902	S Markstone	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-3	-8	
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
20101	S McGinnie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	0	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+3	+7	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	1.00	+3	+6	
20301	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	+3	+7	
20302	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+8	+7	
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0	
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	0	0	
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-2	
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	0	
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-2	
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0	
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0	0	
20502	T McKinnay	Celtic	3.00	0	0	
20601	D Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00	+12	+12	
20602	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	+11	+11	
20603	T Phelan	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
20604	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	+4	+4	
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-5	
20702	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-2	
20703	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	0	
20704	R Genaux	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-3	
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	-1	-3	
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	-2	
20803	J Kavanagh	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
20901	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0	0	
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0	0	
20903	N Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0	0	
21001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	+3	0	
21002	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	+4	0	
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0	0	
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	+3	+6	
21103	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	+3	+7	
21104	M Jackson	Everton	1.00	0	0	
21201	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0	0	
21202	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	-3	-3	
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	+4	+8	
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	+4	+7	
21401	T Black	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0	
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	-2	-4	
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	-1	-3	
21502	T Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0	0	
21503	P Beesley	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
21601	M Whitlow	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
21602	S Grayson	Leeds United	0.50	-1	+3	
21603	N Lewis	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
21604	F Rolling	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	
21702	S Harkness	Liverpool	1.50	0	0	
21703	S Bjornby	Liverpool	0.50	+8	+9	
21704	P Charnock	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
1801	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	-2	+5	
1802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-1	-1	
1803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-1	-3	
1901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	-1	-3	
1902	C Branco	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
1903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
1904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-3	
1905	C Macdonald	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	0	
2002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	+4	+2	
1101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
1102	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+1	
1103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	+3	+3	
1104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	-2	
201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	-2	-2	
202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	0	
203	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+4	
204	N Jerkan	Nottingham Forest	2.00	-3	+1	
101	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	-2	-5	
102	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-2	
101	D Robertson	Rangers	2.50	0	0	
102	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0	0	
101	N Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+4	
102	P Aheron	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	0	
103	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	0	
104	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	+2	+2	
105	L Biscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
106	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	0	
107	E Benali	Southampton	0.75	-6	-6	
108	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	+1	+1	
109	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	+3	+7	
110	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	+4	+7	
111	G Hall	Sunderland	0.25	0	0	
112	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
113	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+4	+5	
114	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	+4	+7	
115	D Karake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
116	T Dicks	West Ham United	4.00	+3	+2	
117	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0	-1	
118	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	-1	
119	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	-1	-1	
120	K Brown	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
121	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	-2	-4	
122	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
123	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-3	
124	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
125	G Elkins	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	
126	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	-1	-3	



Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, is one of the leading midfield players in ITF with 8 points

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Ch
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	+4	+3	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-1	
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.00	0	0	
30202	S Gould	Arsenal	2.50	+3	+6	
30203	M Kewen	Arsenal	3.00	+3	+7	
30204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.00	+1	+5	
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	0	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	+11	+10	
30302	I Ehigbo	Aston Villa	3.00	+8	+7	
30303	P McGinath	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
30304	C Tiller	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	-1	-2	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	-3	
30404	N Markes	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	0	
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	0	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	0	
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
30602	F Labourel	Chelsea	2.50	+14	+14	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	+5	+5	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+11	+11	
30607	J Kjekshus	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
30701	I Delah	Coventry City	2.00	-4	-6	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-1	
30703	D Bustri	Coventry City	1.00	0	0	
30801	I Sidmac	Derby County	2.50	-2	-2	
30802	D Wassell	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30803	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	-2	-4	
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	0	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	0	
30902	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	0	
31001	I Den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	+4	+3	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+2	+8	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	+2	+3	
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	-3	-3	
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	-3	+2	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	0	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	+1	+5	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+1	+1	
31402	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	-2	-2	
31403	D Wetherall	Kilmarnock	2.50	-1	-1	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	-1	-3	
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0	-3	
31601	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31602	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	-2	-1	
31802	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+3	
31803	P Kumaark	Leicester City	0.50	0	0	
31804	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	-2	-2	
31701	P Babba	Liverpool	3.50	+8	+6	
31702	J Soales	Liverpool	3.50	0	0	
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	+8	+4	
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	+6	+6	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	-2	-2	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	-2	-2	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	-1	0	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	-4	-6	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-2	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-1	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	+4	+3	
32002	M Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	+8	+8	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	+2	0	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+2	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-1	-1	
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-4	-4	
32203	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	-2	-6	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	+4	+4	
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0	
32403	J Bjorlund	Rangers	3.50	+4	+3	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	0	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+4	
32503	B Bell	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	0	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	-2	+2	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	0	
32701	A McVieille	Sunderland	1.00	+3	+7	
32702	K Bell	Sunderland	0.50	+3	+6	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	+6	+10	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+7	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+3	+7	
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
32804	Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+3	+6	
32805	S McIlvercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
32901	S Bittie	West Ham United	2.50	0	-2	
32902	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+2	0	
32903	S Porta	West Ham United	2.00	0	0	
32904	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
32906	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.25	0	0	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	
33002	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33004	D Glaswell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.25	-1	-3	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	

McCullough's maestros get off to a flying start



L. McCULLOUGH, of Scunthorpe, is the early pace-setter in Interactive Team Football (ITF) and his Sky Times III team has earned him the first £250 weekly prize of the season.

Mr McCullough's mix of Chelsea defenders and a forward pairing of Fabrizio Ravaneli and Ally McCoist has paid handsome dividends. With a six-point bonus introduced for players scoring a hat-trick this season, Ravaneli has contributed strongly to Sky Times III's 102 points from the first week.

Mr McCullough's team is:

Goalkeeper
N Southall (Everton)

Full backs
S I Bjornebye (Liverpool)
D Petrescu (Chelsea)

Central defenders
D Unsworth (Everton)
F Leboeuf (Chelsea)

Midfield players
A Thom (Celtic)
P Simpson (Derby)
D Windass (Aberdeen)
S Donnelly (Celtic)

Strikers
A McCoist (Rangers)
F Ravaneli (Middlesbrough)

Manager
R Evans (Liverpool)

It is early days, but if your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week and to



A precious few, like Ravaneli, are lucky enough to play for Sky Times III and the rest, like Vialli, only wish they could



(most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 900 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own.

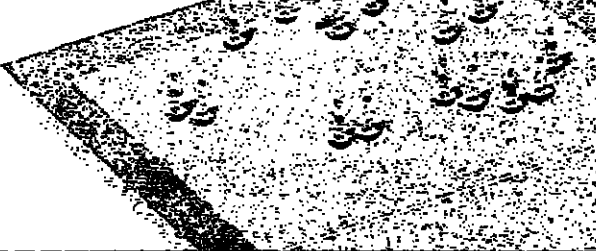
All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF
All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennants Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players†	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full backs/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Saves goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1
Full backs/Central defender		Misses penalty	1
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team losses	1

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO START YOUR OWN MINI-LEAGUE

This season you and your friends can compete directly against each other in your own ITF Mini-League. All you need are four or more people (up to a maximum of 100) and a nominated chairperson.

A Mini-League is simple to set up and costs only £2.50 extra. A Mini-League may only be entered by post. Each player must enclose his or her ITF application form in the normal way. All payments and entry forms must be in the same envelope along with the attached form and your additional

£2.50, payable to *The Times* Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You cannot add members to your Mini-League after your initial entry.

The fee is £5 sterling for a Mini-League for entrants outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Further details are available from 01582 488122. Each month, a letter will be sent to the chairperson showing the position of all entrants in their Mini-League.

MINI-LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

I enclose all team entries in the same envelope along with an additional cheque/postal order for £2.50. Please set up my Mini-League.

Chairperson's name

Mini-League name

I enclose entry forms with £2 entry fee each, plus an extra £2.50 to set up my Mini-League.

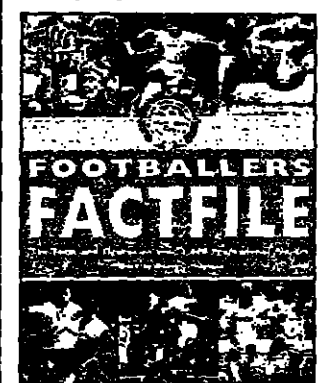
Total payment £



See Sky Text, page 118

20 SIGNED COPIES OF THE PFA FOOTBALLERS FACTFILE TO BE WON

We have 20 copies of the PFA Footballers Factfile to be won by players who enter *The Times* ITF between today and Friday August 30. The winners will be selected at random and notified by September 20. The PFA Footballers Factfile is the perfect companion for any ITF manager, with profiles on over 2,000 professional players. Each copy will be signed by Gary and Philip Neville.



PLAY ITF ON-LINE

Play on-line to win all the great ITF prizes, including the £50,000 first prize. Plus play for special internet prizes, such as the £1,000 top prize and the £250 monthly prize. You can also check your position in the internet league instantly, on-line.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Enter *The Times* Internet Edition at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>
2. Look for the special ITF button.
3. Entry on-line costs £7.50, payable only by credit card. This allows you to make transfers for the entire season.

FOR FREE ITF ENTRY GUIDES CALL 0171 451 3655

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 900 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit code of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 39p per minute (plus 4p per minute at other times). Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out	Player code
Club	
Player in	
Club	

LEADING 250 PLAYERS IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Sky Times III (L. McCullough)	102
2	Ginger (T P Leah)	97
3	Arts Allstars (A Bang)	96
4	Matts Dream 11 (M Barnett)	92
5	AFC Domestics (G Singh Mangal)	91
6	Hutton Hotsprings (P Shendani)	89
7	Nataschas Team (M Macfarlane)	89
8	Pitch United (Tusali)	88
9	Thomas (H Lewis)	87
10	M & M Reds (M Mathias)	87
11	Dream Team 4 De 96 (M Adeyemi)	86
12	Better Than United (E Redgate)	86
13	On The Up Two (J Cortello)	86
14	Premiership All Stars (R Edley)	86
15	No Scot Players (D Wilson)	86
16	Matthews XI (M Caunt)	86
17	White Feathers (M Catchpole)	85
18	Reservoir Dogs (P Phelan)	85
19	Russells Rangers (P Divaney)	84
20	Brill XI (R Segar)	84
21	Smitty Rovers (P Smith)	84
22	Incarnations (L A Tomlinson)	84
23	Shack Attack (R Shackleton)	84
24	(D Whalley)	84
25	Timbuc 2 (O Leyland)	84
26	Andy's Allstars (A Dean)	84
27	Aspen First XI (D Pearce)	83
28	Sally Luca (M Jones)	83
29	West Wonders (S West)	83
30	Wanda (M Milani)	83
31	Conthians Res FC (M Lunin)	83
32	Peacock United (J Wood)	82
33	The Foreign Legion (S Allen)	82
34	Mark's Magicians 11 (M Kingston)	82
35	Cucumber United (N Champ)	81
36	Four Ever Blue (S Noon)	81
37	Bad Time Boys (R Crook)	81
38	A C Laganer (S Madge)	81
39	Rude Awakening (R Cronin)	81
40	The Red Richmond (J Louder)	81
41	Newcomers United (A Sammut)	81
42	Expensive United (C Haynes)	81
43	No Defence Again (D Wilson)	81
44	Lockys All Stars (J Lock)	81
45	Guilts Big Boys (T Hunt)	81
46	Smoker Select (R Taylor)	81
47	Rags Ramblers (P Regan)	81
48	Robbo's Year Team (M Neal)	81
49	Worth Every Penny (N Elliot)	81
50	Plan B FC (R Ayres)	81
51	The True Champions (J Evans)	81
52	Avoncos Cosmos (A Keener)	81
53	World In Motion (P Copeland)	81
54	Smithers Stars (M A Smith)	81
55	Glory Hunters (M J Woods)	81
56	Matthews Men (M Gunn)	81
57	Enzies Wonderboys (Unsworth)	81
58	A C Fantasy FC (M Skippin)	81
59	Hoodys Pick (M Hood)	81
60	Beep Cheap Chatterbox (M Swallow)	81

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

51	La Triumph (M Ismail)	80
52	Too Few Blues In Use (S Adley)	80
53	Suds Up (S Taylor)	80
54	United Reserves (A Robson)	80
55	Top Team (S Balleman)	80
56	Action Vanilla (W Dunstone)	80
57	Kneebowth Park XI (J Watkins)	80
58	All Sorts XI (J Jones)	79
59	Raging Hormones (A McBride)	79
60	The Browne Eagles (O Alala-Browne)	79
61	Almighty Tien FC (N Gairshore)	79
62	Whitehead Wanderers (A Whitehead)	79
63	The Italian Job (A Kneen)	79
64	Caroline B (A Lockhurst)	79
65	Ginger FC (M A Spender)	79
66	Titans (J Hilton)	79
67	Pattos Njstas (D Patterson)	79
68	All Stars XI (J Jones)	79
69	Preston Ponders (A Fitzpatrick)	79
70	Wreatham Reserves (H W Roberts)	79
71	Top Or Flops (J Spillit)	79
72	Goofy's 2nd 11 (P Muldoon)	79
73	Dutch Courage (Rud Van Ruitersbeek)	79
74	Abraham Harnes XI (A Hynes)	79
75	Blue Barry FC (S Smith)	79
76	Daves Devils (O Cook)	79
77	Dorkey Demons (B Daves)	79
78	Itasca (D Lottia)	79
79	Scouse Army (B Harwood)	79
80	Great Reb 86	79
81	Power Balls (J Anderson)	79
82	Vino 97 (P Durham)	79
83	Primrose Play Boys (M Cook)	79
84	Grainville United (A McNight)	79
85	Seb (M Haswell)	79
86	Team Lincoln (L Cavendish)	79
87	Clarke Classics (T Clark)	79
88	Deans Lovely Bears (J Brock)	79
89	Kals Pickers (K Howcroft)	79

81	Wolf Of The South (G N Murray)	78
82	Priory Rangers (J Palmer)	78
83	Alien XI (A Djerri)	78
84	Europe United (P O'Donnell)	78
85	Eastenders (R Kitchin)	78
86	Born Losers 4 (S Uddin)	78
87	L A Stars (Leslie Altam)	78
88	Allys Eagles (A Hussay)	78
89	The Master Plan (S Henderson)	78
90	The Berties (S Williams)	78
91	Average United (R Burton)	78
92	Totter Town (A Singleton)	78
93	D & A Warriors (A Summers)	78
94	Fab (N Shah)	78
95	Premier All Stars (A Pearson)	78
96	I'm The Greatest (P Thynn)	78
97	Adomas Star Squad	78
98	Simply Reg (J Bridge)	78
99	The House FC (N Chapman)	78
100	Shunrock Rovers (P Meenan)	78
101	Tom E Terminators (T E Unsworth)	78
102	Hanley Harriers (F Robertson)	78
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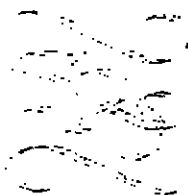
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
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EDUCATION

Parent power clears up

Rod and Marilyn Lindsay describe how they helped their son over the last hurdle into a university place

Clearing was deliberately chosen as an option early on in the application process by our son, Alasdair. This may appear somewhat arrogant of him but it was not that he was confident he would gain good grades. He was very confident that he could gain a place at some university because his teachers had told him he was capable of getting a degree, although they always added that he would have to work harder to gain the necessary grades. He didn't take the last part too seriously. Perhaps it was because he wanted to study electronic engineering and it was generally accepted that engineering courses were having trouble filling their quotas for admission. He decided he was going to choose the place that appealed to him most and then wait to see whether he would gain the necessary grades.

In some respects, he was going to play the system. From his original eight choices on his Ucas form (since 1996 Ucas has asked for six choices), he had chosen four universities to attend for interview: Bath, Edinburgh, Strathclyde and Heriot-Watt, and had made up his mind during his day at Bath University that this was where he wanted to study. Offers duly arrived, but were higher than Alasdair's predicted grades. His school made it clear to us that it would not predict high grades for a pupil just to satisfy the requirements of his chosen university. These, therefore, seemed unattainable goals and we found it somewhat surprising that these unrealistic offers were made.

Knowing Alasdair as we do, however, we suspected he had interviewed extremely well. He was also studying electronics at A/S level and felt this had been a tremendous ad-

vantage. He came out of the interviews with the impression that universities would consider admitting a student who did not actually attain the grades sought, so he grew in confidence about gaining a place — somewhere.

We began to read up on the Ucas literature. A *Parents' Guide to Higher Education*, about clearing and how to tackle it officially. Once it had been confirmed that a candidate would not be accepted by his first or second choice university, a passport form would be sent out from Ucas which, once completed, would be sent by the student to an alternative establishment. We were advised that newspapers would, just before results were due, publish lists of universities showing where they had vacancies from the initial tranche of offers, and the grades they would accept. We scanned the lists. As we work in a university, we knew that admissions offices would be using Cefax to advertise vacancies.

The results came as a disappointment, but for the first time there was some anxiety on the part of our offspring. Would B, D, E, E and C/A/S-level get him anywhere? While we, his parents, were extremely disappointed for him, he reacted by indicating that he might not bother going to university anyway. Finding the balance between what we wanted for him and what he thought he wanted for himself was no easy task, but we felt we could rely on him to make the right decision.

An evening out with friends, some of whom were in the same position as he was, saw him ready to tackle admissions tutors. Now, he really wanted to gain a place. The attractions of going away to study outweighed the alternative of staying at home, working in some mundane job and hearing the delights of university life second-hand. Bless his friends.

Advice from the university where we work was to find which universities had vacancies and were looking for grades similar to Alasdair's, then to phone the departmental admissions tutor, immediately — and not to wait for the official form from Ucas. We, the parents, spent the evening checking Cefax. Several universities displayed vacancies in electronic engineering and among them was Heriot-Watt, where Alasdair had been for interview. The basic grades they wanted were still higher than he had achieved, but it would be worth a try.

We noticed that there were many more vacancies, with much lower grades required at newer universities, but he decided he would approach these only if he failed to get into one of the older established ones.

He called the engineering department, where he spoke to a lecturer. Over and above giving his grades, he added that his details might already be on their computer. The lecturer said he would have to consult the admissions tutor. He phoned back, saying they were willing to offer him a place. It would have to be confirmed through Ucas.

In some respects, we wonder if Alasdair is truly representative of students who gain a place through the clearing system, in that he did, in fact, go to a university he had seen and where he had been interviewed. Our original conception of clearing had been of students phoning around institutions until one said it would take them. We had also felt that students who got in to university through clearing might not be able to cope.

Alasdair told us that he now had no doubts that he was doing the course he wanted and was prepared to work at his studies to maintain his place. We were delighted.

● *The authors work in university administration. Their son is at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.*

● *Abridged from a chapter in 'It's quite an education: supporting your son or daughter through university, to be published by the Unit for Innovation in Higher Education and The Times Higher Education Supplement, price £7.95, in September. For details on titles in the IHE series, contact the IHE unit, Lonsdale College, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YN.*



Marilyn Lindsay with son Alasdair: an evening out with friends persuaded him to keep trying to secure a place

Unsung colleges with a wide range of degrees

Simon Midgley reports on an alternative route for students

When it comes to choosing somewhere to study for a degree, there is one group of degree-awarding institutions which is less well known to students.

This parallel sector includes more than 50 colleges, primarily in England and Wales, which have yet to become universities but which offer their own degrees or degrees awarded by neighbouring universities. Most of these institutions are grouped together in an umbrella organisation called the Standing Conference of Principals of colleges and institutions of higher education (Scop).

The colleges include highly regarded art and drama colleges such as the Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, Chelsea College of Art and Design, the Central School of Speech and Drama and Rose Bruford College, and specialist institutions such as the London College of Fashion, the London College of Printing and the Anglo European College of Chiropractic.

For the most part, however, the sector consists of a variety of generalist colleges ranging in size and in a variety of urban and semi-rural settings.

Many of these institutions started life as teacher-training colleges but have diversified, and often amalgamated, to offer a much wider range of courses.

They come with a perplexing variety of titles but are all funded by the Higher Education Funding

Council and all offer degrees. A few colleges, for example Nene College in Northampton, offer their own degrees; but in most cases degrees are validated, or quality controlled, usually by nearby universities. In 1995 more than 100,000 undergraduates were studying in this sector.

Why choose to study in one of these colleges? One answer is that, broadly speaking, in some colleges and in some faculties the A-level or GNVQ grades asked for may be lower than those sought by universities. This is not universally true, however.

Some are highly regarded and competition for places is extremely strong. Another answer is that many of these colleges, given their origins, have strong traditions of good teaching and learning support.

One such is Edge Hill University College, in Lancashire, which prides itself on the level of support it offers students. Rhianon Evans, the director of students and marketing, says: "We would not overlook a student whose grades were bare passes if we felt that student had potential. Our evidence shows that there is not a necessary correlation between very high A-level grades and good outcomes from degree courses."

For the most part the colleges also offer students vocationally orientated degrees which are attractive to those seeking to maximise their chances of getting a job after graduation.



Grey-haired scholars with a yearning for learning

David Tyler finds that the ranks of older students are swelling

Teenagers starting university courses this year are more likely than ever to find themselves sharing tutorials with students old enough to be their parents. Sometimes even their grandparents.

Between 1982 and 1992 the number of mature first-year students in higher education more than doubled from 139,800 to 319,400, rising by 15 per cent between 1991 and 1992. It is estimated that some six million adults in Britain are studying at any one time, more than half of them on formal courses.

All universities have a large proportion of students who do not come straight from school. At Surrey, for example, 18 per cent of students are aged over 21. Susan Cole, who was 47 when she joined Surrey's psychology course, says: "It is something I have always been meaning to do, but the time has never been quite right."

Mrs Cole, who has worked in advertising, public relations and market research and is the mother of two children, says: "It is not a case of my children now going to university themselves and me left twiddling my thumbs. I feel that with a degree there will be more opportunities for me to develop an interesting career."

Securing a place is not always easy. Mrs Cole says: "I did not realise there was such competition to enter university as a mature student. I had to gain a sociology A level with a B grade to get a place."

And once at university, it is no easy ride for the mature student. Robert Eves, a 39-year-old researcher at the Open University, complains: "I found tutorials, where the class was made up of younger students, frustrating. Many of the younger students were hungover or had not done their work. As a result I would try to ensure that my tutorial group was mainly made up of mature students."

Other mature students are the butt of parental complaints. Pam Perkins, a 52-year-old graduate of the University of Wales, was told by one father that it was

mature students like her who were keeping teenagers, like his son, out of university.

Mrs Perkins, who left school at 15, decided to return to education when her own three children had all successfully completed college courses. She thinks more could be done to help older students to settle into university. "The young students were so bright, confident and articulate that I felt inferior."

Her views are supported by a survey of mature students published by the National Institute for Adult Continuing Education which shows that many suffer shyness.

Jackie, 40, told the researchers: "I looked around and saw all these people and I felt like hiding away."

Many of the students interviewed said that eventually

their confidence increased as they saw that their work was on at least a par with, and often better than, that of their younger colleagues. But even success was not always enough to dispel the doubts.

Elizabeth, 49, says: "My marks are perfectly adequate and what I am doing is fine, but every time I hand a piece of work in I'm afraid it's going to be absolutely awful and I worry about it. My common-sense tells me I am doing all right but I still find it difficult to relate that knowledge to myself and how I feel."

Research carried out for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) earlier this year showed that mature students were particularly likely to drop out. They make up 25 per cent of full-time undergraduates over 25

and account for almost 40 per cent of the dropouts.

Many of them leave because of lack of support, says Diana Warwick, chief executive of the CVCP. "This is supposed to be the European Year of Lifelong Learning," she adds. "Yet our survey shows that mature students returning to learning in mid-career are among the most disadvantaged students in this country."

For many mature students, the university place marks the start of a second career and the fulfilment of long-held ambitions. John Edwards, of Redhill, Surrey, spent 12 years in the Royal Air Force, mostly as a helicopter pilot, before moving into computers.

He achieved the first of his musical ambitions at 29 when he learnt to play the piano. Now 51, he has just completed the first year of the music course at Surrey University.

Mr Edwards has been successful in gaining a grant and works in the holidays to earn extra cash. He says: "I have found it extremely stimulating, not as difficult as I had expected."

Unlike many older students, Mr Edwards finds little difficulty in working alongside a class of 18-year-olds: "Mature students tend to have more to say, the younger students are all a bit quiet."

Mr Edwards is just one of a number of success stories. Research at Plymouth University showed that over the past five years mature students are outperforming younger ones. The research revealed that, on average, students under 25 graduated with lower second-class honours than those in their late twenties and above were awarded upper second-class.

Sherria Hoskins, a psychology lecturer who worked on the research, says: "Older students may be coming in with more intrinsic motivation, studying for enjoyment, and trying to understand, not just memorise and regurgitate. Mature students are not lowering standards and may even be raising them."



More college scarves are going around mature necks

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Which kind of justice would you choose?

Frances Gibb on a new kind of conciliation service in civil cases



The Scott report: time for action

After the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial, the Prime Minister in November 1992 appointed a judge, Sir Richard Scott, to conduct an inquiry into the export of defence equipment to Iraq. Thirty-nine months later, Sir Richard published his five-volume, 1,800-page report, criticising William Waldegrave (Minister of State at the Foreign Office at the relevant time), Sir Nicholas Lyell (the Attorney-General) and some civil servants. The Government won a House of Commons debate by one vote. Whitehall returned to business as usual. *Public Law*, the leading journal of constitutional and administrative law, publishes tomorrow a special, autumn issue devoted to an analysis of the implications of the Scott report for the way in which Britain is governed (Sweet & Maxwell, £22.50).

In two essays, Sir Richard applies the principle of open government that is at the root of his report. He argues that the concept of ministerial accountability should focus less on whether ministers should resign when mistakes are made, and more on a positive obligation "to give, or to facilitate the giving, of information about the activities of their departments and about the actions and omissions of their civil servants".

Sir Richard also presents an overwhelming case for the abolition of class claims for public interest immunity, that is the government privilege from disclosure of relevant categories of documents in legal proceedings irrespective of whether there is a good reason to conceal the content of the specific documents. He is rightly critical of the argument

that if classes of documents were not protected from disclosure, the functioning of the public service would be impeded. Lord Howe of Aberavon criticises the procedure applied during what he found to be "a manifestly unsatisfactory operation". Despite his eloquence, the complaint that Scott denied a fair hearing is unsustainable: those affected were told the relevant issues at the outset, they had an opportunity to make oral and written representations, and (at the end of the process) they had the chance to comment in writing on any draft criticisms that Sir Richard was inclined to include in the report. Lord Howe more persuasively contends that the procedure impaired the inquiry's efficiency: Sir Richard should not have sat alone, without expert assessors, and oral submissions from counsel might have assisted him in considering the proper construction of relevant legislation, and the content of public interest immunity law in 1992.

The strengths and weaknesses of a judicial inquiry are discussed in a number of the essays. Judges are good at finding out what happened. Sir Cecil Clother (the Ombudsman from 1979 to 1984) explains that judges have the advantage, even today when "so many people are investigating so many other people", that government bureaucracy is meticulous in retaining files which emit "the faint, elusive aroma of truth". But judges have less expertise in examining policy questions. Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies at King's College London, identifies the substantial weaknesses in Scott's analysis of the deliberately ambiguous world of foreign policy.

Professor Gavin Drewry, of Royal Holloway College, London, examines the paradox of political use of the judiciary to conduct inquiries of this nature. Judges are called upon because of their objectivity and independence from the rough world of politics. But when a Prime Minister is under pressure, as John Major was in November

1992 and in February 1996, judicial authority is used as a weapon in a political battle. Sir Douglas Wass, Joint Head of the Home Civil Service 1981-83, explains that a principal theme of the Scott report, as of this special edition of *Public Law*, is that our constitution lacks adequate restraints on the power of the executive. Adam Tomkins, of the School of Law, King's College London, makes the depressing point that the way the publication of the report was handled confirms that ministers will not easily give up their powers. Sir Richard had spent more than three years explaining that restrictions on access to information

cause inefficient and undemocratic government. But the executive insisted on seeing the report eight days before publication, while giving opposition spokesmen a mere three hours' notice of its contents, then produced a highly tendentious "press pack". The Scott report had its faults: it took too long, it assumed that legalistic criteria could be applied to foreign policy issues and its lack of clearly presented conclusions substantially reduced its impact. Nevertheless, Sir Richard Scott's substantial achievement was to dig deep into the confidential world of Whitehall bureaucracy and to tell us as much about the way we are governed as any other contemporary document.

The editor of *Public Law*, Professor Dawn Oliver, has produced a provocative collection of essays which identify and examine the difficult questions of law, politics and public administration raised by the Scott report, and which we now need urgently to address.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

It was a common kind of dispute. A houseowner was unhappy with some plumbing work a firm did for him. Another firm had to be contracted to redo the work so the owner sued the original plumber for £7,000 in damages. The plumber counter-claimed for £3,000 and was granted legal aid.

The case was typical of the 1,500 claims a month at the Central London County Court, many involving sums of up to £10,000. But the way in which it was handled broke new ground. The case was one of the first to be referred to mediation under a new pilot project at the court, to see if both sides could reach agreement without going to trial.

The pilot scheme started in May. It is the first in which a mediation service has been offered within the courts' organisation and with the backing of the Lord Chancellor's Department. It is, in a sense, testing the water for Lord Woolf's proposed reforms in which people will be encouraged to view litigation as a last resort; and to settle problems through mediation or other ways of dispute resolution.

The scheme applies to disputes in the £3,000 to £10,000 range. People are asked to tick a box asking whether they would like to try mediation as

a first step in settling their dispute. They retain the right to go on to court if it fails. A single three-hour session with a trained mediator from one of five organisations is then arranged within 28 days, to take place outside court hours, between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. Each side pays £25 towards the mediator's expenses.

Judge Butler, QC, one of the judges who first broached the idea with the Lord Chancellor and who is now overseeing the project, says: "If by 7.30pm it is plain there is no agreement, that is the end of it and the case proceeds as usual. Alternatively, there may be a settlement and that will be put before the court for endorsement."

The main advantages, he says, are the savings in costs and time and avoidance of "the anxiety associated with litigation". Agreement can sometimes be reached quickly: in 28 days, instead of waiting for a court hearing, which can take five to ten months after the filing of a defence.

Judges are in favour of the project, he adds. They are worried about the number of cases being tried in which the assets involved are quite small and litigants need help at an early stage to see whether the problem can be sorted out. He says: "Often, they don't understand what they are letting

themselves in for. Judges think of the costs of litigation and the number of cases that we hope to resolve early on and hope the scheme will prove cost-effective."

The one-year scheme has been running for only three months. But the solicitor who handled the plumbing dispute is full of praise. Nicola Daly of Oswald Hickson Collier says: "Lawyers tend to be sceptical about mediation. They are often reluctant to relinquish control of cases and feel they are best placed to negotiate a settlement on their client's behalf. But based on my experience, I would urge lawyers to give the scheme a try if the sum at stake is more than £3,000 and when the parties' means are limited."

Ms Daly's case was in an advanced state of readiness: a trial date was only a month away. "I was confident that my client had a good case," she explains, "and would ultimately be successful at trial." But just before witness statements were exchanged, she heard that the defendant had been granted legal aid. She adds: "My client stood virtually no chance of enforcing a judgment against him, nor would he recover costs if completely unsuccessful."

In effect, my client was in a no-win situation so far as the litigation was concerned and was under financial pressure to settle as legal costs headed towards exceeding the sum at stake."

Both sides saw the pilot scheme as a last chance to settle the matter, she says. Legal aid is not available under the scheme but it has been proposed that legal aid funds be provided for mediation.

The two sides arrived at 4.30pm and were shown to separate rooms. Normally, they would then be encouraged to meet with the mediator to outline their respective cases. The mediator then helps them to reach a compromise. But in this case, they were not on speaking terms so never met until they signed an agreement. There is a large pool of mediators from which to draw; Ms Daly specifically requested a mediator with building dispute expertise. Lawyers can attend, but she does not recommend it. "The involvement of lawyers is likely to create an adversarial atmosphere," she says, "and that may inhibit the facilitating of a mediated settlement."

Research has found that if lawyers are present, mediators tend to direct questions at them rather than the parties.

Both sides were satisfied with the outcome, details of which remain confidential. Despite the advanced stage of the dispute, Ms Daly says "enormous" savings were made in legal costs. She adds: "Lawyers owe a duty to their clients to keep costs down and to achieve the best possible commercial results. No matter how far down the legal track parties are, the scheme is worth considering as an inexpensive and efficient alternative to litigation."

But take-up has been slow. Of the 671 invitations sent out by the court, 20 parties have agreed to mediate and 272 have rejected the offer. Ten mediations have so far taken place. But the success rate — four out of five — is high.

Disputes can be settled quickly — out of court — say the experts

Fast-track ways of dealing with low-cost disputes as proposed by Lord Woolf in his recent report are also being piloted at the Patents County Court in London. The aim of the two-year scheme, which was introduced this summer by Judge Ford, the head of the Patents County Court, is to provide low-cost, quick handling of disputes about patent, design, copyright, and other intellectual property matters. Frances Gibb writes.

The pilot, along with that at the Central London County Court, is part of an initiative by the Lord Chancellor's Department to improve access to justice.

Litigants will be offered two ways of settling their disputes, other than by going to trial: arbitration and mediation. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, says: "We will always need the courts to resolve some disputes that cannot be settled any other way. However, I believe that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is often a more appropriate way of handling some matters. It can save people time and money and provide an effective solution... It also reduces the burden on the court system."

The Patents County Court, based at the Central London County Court but with jurisdiction in England and Wales, was set up under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to cater for small and medium-size firms that do not have the resources to incur big legal fees. Judge Ford says: "Most patents disputes do not end up in the court. Only 10



Judge Ford of the Patents County Court

Take the fast track

per cent of our cases actually go to trial. Experience shows that a large proportion of them are settled during the preliminary written stage."

Nevertheless, large costs are incurred even by this stage. Compared with litigation, arbitration offers privacy and a more flexible procedure. The scheme offers a fast, simplified procedure before a single arbitrator, whose award is binding on the parties. The scheme is quite separate from small claims arbitration for disputes of up to £3,000. The parties choose an arbitrator with

technical knowledge relevant to the dispute from a list at the court. He or she reads all documents, then invites the parties to a session. A single dispute might need just one session; others may take two or three.

Alternatively, parties will be offered fast-track mediation — facilitated negotiation — where they are helped by a trained mediator to reach agreement. They may meet the mediator. In both schemes, parties will meet the fees of the arbitrators or mediators, but these are expected to be low.

Arbitration is strongly backed by solicitors with experience of it. Martin Cross, the head of litigation at Thomas Eggar Verral Bowles, a Sussex law firm, is a fellow of the Institute of Arbitrators. He has also just been appointed a member of the South East branch Panel of Arbitrators, the only member handling insolvency matters and one of three dealing with professional negligence.

He says: "Arbitration is a practical and confidential way of solving a dispute without clogging up the court system." It was particularly suitable where evidence could be readily expressed in documentary form and the parties wanted to do business together in the future. Costs were also easier to predict.

● Law students at the University of Derby are to train in mediation and ADR under a joint venture between its law school and the ADR Group, which provides training courses for the legal profession. The new scheme will also provide short courses for people to train as mediators.

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A speech therapist and a friend proved crucial to Joanna Kennedy's defence of a client with dysphasia

Experts enabled justice to be done

I recently acted for a client who suffered from a condition known as dysphasia, which affects a patient's speech and language and ability to understand what is said. He does not want further publicity, so I shall call him "Mr A". Mr A was also profoundly deaf, from unrelated causes. He had great difficulty in expressing himself: it was often clear that he knew what he wanted to say but he could not find the words he needed to express himself. He was also easily confused, unable to follow complex sentences and could not concentrate for long.

This condition obviously made the conduct of the litigation difficult and posed challenges for us. The action was of a deeply personal and unpleasant nature and, had my client lost, he would probably have become bankrupt. So it was stressful and involved detailed allegations about events that had occurred several years earlier.

Mr A was, however, extremely lucky in that he had a long-term friend and colleague, an accountant, who was willing to help. He stud-

ied Mr A's condition and spoke to speech therapists who treat the condition to discover the best way to overcome the communication difficulties. The friend then acted as an intermediary between me and Mr A. Whenever I needed information or instructions, he would visit Mr A, discuss the problems patiently and eventually come back to me with the necessary information.

As the litigation progressed, my next concern was over the court appearance. I was not sure whether Mr A would be able to give oral evidence. I obtained a report from Doreen McNelly, an experienced senior speech therapist, who emphasised the need for a thorough preliminary assessment. She identified the problems, including the worrying possibility that Mr A might answer "Yes" to a question when he meant "No". She also prepared recommendations for the procedures to be adopted when the client was giving evidence. The main one was that he could give evidence for only 60 to 90 minutes a day, after which he would be unable to remember or communicate anything use-

ful for the rest of the day. She also recommended that questions be written and handed to him so that he could read as well as listen to them. I thought it unlikely that a judge would permit evidence to be given in these circumstances so I decided to try to persuade the court to take the client's evidence in affidavit form. We had to explain to the court the disability and procedures involved and that the client was capable of giving a lucid and honest account of such events as he could remember if he were questioned by an expert in a specific manner, but that he could not give evidence in court under the usual conditions.

So Mr A went through a statement of his evidence with Mrs McNelly, using visual aids to see whether she could confirm that he understood its contents. She satisfied herself that the statement was understood by the client and that he was able to confirm the truth of it. Mr A then swore an affidavit attesting to the truth of his statement and Mrs McNelly swore an affidavit explaining that she had been through it with him and



Joanna Kennedy, right, discusses the case with the speech therapist Doreen McNelly

believed that he understood it and believed it to be true.

It was important that we still reserved our position to permit Mr A to give oral evidence if the course of the case required it, in which case Mrs McNelly would act as interpreter. In the event, after cross-examining her about the circumstances in which the affidavit had been sworn, the judge agreed to take the evidence in this form.

We were concerned that the judge would give less weight to Mr A's evidence given in this form. But, on at least one

issue, he accepted the evidence on affidavit in preference to the oral evidence of one of the plaintiffs, and Mr A won.

This case is encouraging for those suffering from communication difficulties but who want to pursue litigation. The strategy used could be adapted to other situations. Gordon Bennett, the barrister instructed in this case for Mr A, says, however, that it is very difficult to persuade the court to accept an affidavit in place of cross-examination. The credibility of the speech therapist, or other intermediary, in explaining

the steps taken to ensure that the witness understands the affidavit is crucial.

Successful litigation is always a matter of teamwork and in this case the unusual difficulties of this client meant that Mrs McNelly, the friend-therapist and the speech therapist became essential members of the team, enabling the client to put his case to the court and win his case in unpromising circumstances.

● The author is a litigation partner with Collyer-Bristow, of London. She was assisted by Action for Dysphasic Adults.

New contracts for legal aid

Frances Gibb on a scheme where non-legal advisers give legal advice

SOLICITORS are set to lose a large chunk of legal aid work to advice centres which are using friendlier methods of giving legal help, such as clinics and telephone information lines.

The Legal Aid Board recently published plans for awarding the first block contracts for providing legal advice outside the legal profession.

The contracts will go to centres such as Citizens Advice Bureaux, which provide legal advice in social welfare law. Between 100 and 150 non-profit-making agencies are likely to be awarded contracts to provide legal advice over the next two years.

The move comes after a pilot scheme that handled 10,408 cases in 11 months and tested whether public funds would be well spent on Citizens Advice Bureaux and others, such as housing information centres, that give legal advice, although usually without a lawyer. Most cases involved benefits, housing and debt.

A report on the scheme, also published last week, by the Policy Studies Institute found that such centres are readier

to offer legal help on housing, welfare benefits, employment and debt, which are not always well covered by solicitors.

The centres also use a greater variety of ways of giving advice, such as telephone helplines or setting up clinics in a local court or community centre.

Forty-two centres in England and Wales without solicitors were contracted by the Legal Aid Board under the pilot scheme to provide legal advice. It found a high level of satisfaction, with users valuing the convenience and familiarity of local help centres and most believing their problems were well understood by advice centre staff.

As a result of the test scheme Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, favours the Legal Aid Board awarding contracts to advice agencies nationally. First contracts will cover legal information, help and limited representation at court. There will be consultation before final plans are drawn up by the end of November. But agencies should indicate their interest in applying by the end of October.

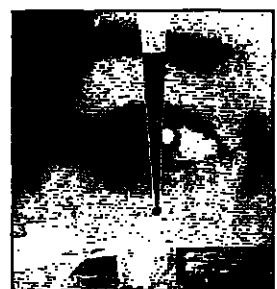
Graham Cooke on the important advance created by Court of Appeal guidelines for using DNA evidence

DNA evidence is increasingly relied on in criminal trials to prove a suspect's link with the crime. But this greater use has posed problems for juries: how do they assess such evidence and what importance should they attach to it?

Landmark guidelines have now been laid down by the Court of Appeal on the use in court of DNA evidence. A judgment last month, *R v Doherty and R v Adams* (The Times Law Report, August 14) brought much-needed clarity to the law and practice on DNA evidence and will give juries the type of information they need. The new guidelines will also restrict the role of forensic experts who, more and more, were evaluating the evidence in a way that some lawyers felt was usurping the jury's role. But the guidelines do nothing to di-

minish the weight to be attached to the DNA evidence when combined with the other evidence in cases.

The judgment is a response to concerns expressed by counsel over what they saw as excessive reliance on DNA evidence, and its resulting guidelines break new ground. The Court of Appeal has coined a new term, the "random occurrence ratio", which will standardise the way DNA evidence is presented in court. It also sets limits to the role of the forensic scientist who normally presents the DNA evidence and who more and more gives an opinion on its strength. Finally, the judgment gives guidance to trial judges on how to refer to the DNA evidence when summing up.



This is what will now happen. Once the scientist has found a match between the DNA profiles of samples taken from the crime scene and from a suspect, a calculation will be made to estimate the rarity of that profile. This is done by using information

DNA: new legal rulings give help to judge and jury

stored in a database of DNA measurements from other DNA work done in the laboratory.

It results in a statement along the lines: "It is estimated that the frequency with which the DNA characteristics in the profile is likely to be found in the population

at large is (say) one in 5,000." This is the frequency figure that the court has called the random occurrence ratio and which the forensic scientist can use in court. Until now, the scientist has been allowed to go on and say how strongly he or she thinks the DNA evidence

supports the proposition that the defendant is the source of the crime stain. That will no longer be allowed. These are matters for the jury, not for the expert.

The next important step is one for mathematical-statistical expertise (not necessarily found in forensic scientists). It will usually be the defence that will want to go further and take this step, particularly when the DNA profile is rare. The idea is to give the jury an estimate of how many people in the relevant section of the population might have the same profile and could therefore be the source of the crime stain. Once that figure has been calculated, a judge's direction would be along the following lines, taken from the recent judgment:

Members of the jury, if you accept the scientific evidence called by the Crown, this indicates that there are probably only four or five for whatever other figure is appropriate males in the United Kingdom from whom the semen stain could have come. The defendant is one of them. The decision you have to reach, on all the evidence, is whether you are sure that it was the defendant who left that stain or whether it is possible that it was one of that other small group of men who share the same DNA characteristics.

It is vital that juries do not think that if the random-occurrence ratio is, say, one in 27 million and there are 27 million males in the country, there will be one male with the DNA profile. That is fallacious. The proper mathematical approach allows them to be directed as above.

● The author is a practising barrister.

AUGUST OPPORTUNITIES

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The established commercial firm with a well regarded corporate/commercial department would like to further strengthen this area of its practice through the recruitment of an experienced corporate lawyer with practice development and management responsibilities. The firm's client base is growing and the existing flow of work is excellent. The position will particularly suit a senior assistant/partner seeking a fast track partnership opportunity although existing partners will also be considered. (Ref:6864)

CORPORATE FINANCE £200,000 TO £400,000
Widely admired medium-sized City firm continues to climb the list of recommended advisers, having played a lead role in many recent high profile deals. As a result, work levels remain sustained and have led to the need to recruit a first rate 2-4 year qualified corporate finance assistant. Ideal candidate should be looking to join a firm able to offer high quality work in a refreshingly relaxed and friendly environment. (Ref:5245)

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Please contact: Andrew Golding, Sally Horrocks or Yasmin Phillips for further information in relation to private practice vacancies in London, and Lisa Hicks in relation to in-house vacancies, on 0171-377 0519 (0181-226 3163 evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. For further information in relation to vacancies in the North please contact Andrew Russell on 0161-238 4968 (0161-929 0969 evenings/weekends) or write to him at ZMB, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester M1 3LF. Confidential fax 0161-238 4910. E-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

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London

To date, the Environmental sector has been characterised by small, fragmented, specialist businesses. Our client, a recently formed company, is the first group to offer customers world-wide fully integrated solutions combining technologies, products and services satisfying all their environmental needs.

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To achieve this aim, they require a lawyer who can act as company secretary ensuring group compliance with all statutory and other regulatory obligations and preparing the company for flotation within 12 months.

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This position will attract ambitious, young solicitors who are eager for a challenging, front-line position where the long term rewards are unlimited. Applicants must be at least three years qualified, with relevant corporate/company secretarial experience, either from industry or a respected City/Provincial practice.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact Andrea McNick (qualified lawyer) in the London office (evenings/weekends 0171 431 5860) for further information. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Garfield Robbins.

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OFT close to ruling on airline alliance

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Office of Fair Trading is close to a decision on whether to refer the proposed link-up between British Airways and American Airlines to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which would almost certainly spell the doom of the BA-American "global alliance". Rivals say it would amount to a stranglehold on transatlantic routes.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	17.28	15.78
Belgium Fr	50.82	46.32
Canada \$	2.23	2.02
Cyprus Cyp	0.748	0.684
Denmark Kr	2.48	2.27
Finland Mk	7.59	6.94
France Fr	6.29	5.74
Germany DM	2.47	2.26
Greece Dr	364	333
Hong Kong \$	12.83	11.83
Ireland P	1.11	1.01
Italy Lit	1,037	953
Japan Yen	162.10	148.10
Malta M	0.586	0.541
Netherlands G	2.74	2.51
New Zealand \$	0.598	0.551
Norway Kr	10.55	9.75
Portugal Esc	204.50	188.50
Spain Ptas	166.38	153.38
Sweden Kr	10.36	9.56
Switzerland S	2.01	1.83
Switzerland S	136.94	126.94
Switzerland S	1.48	1.34

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

the proposed link-up as part of a wider study of airline alliances, and the UK move was designed to harmonise the investigations. BA said it hoped the process would make for a speedier decision.

Virgin Atlantic, BA's long-time rival, has mounted a vociferous campaign aimed at blocking the alliance, saying fares will inevitably rise on services to key American destinations. Other critics include Delta Air Lines, which says the proposed tie-up would permanently destroy competition at Heathrow Airport.

Adding to the controversy, USAir, in which BA has a 24.6 per cent stake, has filed a suit in a US federal court seeking to end its links with BA. It says the proposed alliance undermines its links with BA.

USAir stepped up its campaign last week by applying for permission to fly in direct competition with BA on transatlantic routes to London from Boston, Philadelphia, Charlotte and Pittsburgh — all served by BA under its deal with USAir. BA welcomed the application, saying it would only become possible under a new "open skies" contract between the US and the UK.

The OFT could reach a decision as early as next week, BA, whose chief executive is Robert Ayling, and American under Don Cary, its president, are hoping to win regulatory approval by the autumn, leaving enough time to coordinate timetables before April 1, 1997.



Don Cary, left, and Robert Ayling, hope for regulatory approval by the autumn and scheduled flights by spring

Exchange launches new trading set-up

By FRASER NELSON

THE London Stock Exchange will today complete its most ambitious modernisation programme since Big Bang, with the activation of Sequence Six, its new computerised trading system.

The launch is the final instalment of its £51 million upgrade, which completes the three-year preparations for full electronic order-driven trading.

While the launch will transform the computerised infrastructure that connects the City to the Stock Exchange, it will make no noticeable difference to traders, who will continue to use the existing quote-driven trading system.

With Sequence Six in place, the transition to order-driven trading will be a formality.

Under the present system, prices are set exclusively by dealers who use screens for information and the telephone to make orders. Order-driven trading will wipe out the need for a middle man by matching up the buyer and seller electronically.

After pressure from stock brokers worried about what the new regime will mean for them, the Stock Exchange has agreed to wait until next summer to activate order-driven trading, giving it time to finalise the details with the City.

The Alternative Investment Market is already using order-driven trading. Sequence Six will handle up to 45 bargains per second — four times the current level.

Foster's feels loss of Courage

Foster's, the Australian brewer, suffered an 18 per cent fall in operating profits to \$302.2 million (£151 million) in the year to June 30, reflecting the impact of the disposal of Courage, the British brewer now owned by Scottish & Newcastle.

Net profits, which were held back in 1995 by a write-down in the value of the Courage business, edged ahead 2.2 per cent to \$293.3 million.

Carlton and United Breweries, its Australian brewing arm, lifted operating profits 16 per cent to \$327 million as market share increased to 54 per cent from 53 per cent.

Jury's ahead

Jury's Hotel Group, the Irish hotel chain, said yesterday that trading levels for the first two months of the current fiscal year were well ahead of last year. Walter Beany, chairman, told the company's annual meeting in Dublin: "Almost four months into the year, the strong pattern of trading has been sustained and I look forward to another very successful year."

Merger off

Brian Gilbertson, chief executive of Gencor, the South African mining group, yesterday conceded that his company's plan to merge its platinum interests with those of Lonrho would not proceed. The merger was blocked in April by the European Commission on consumer interest grounds.

Sandoz sells

Sandoz, the Swiss pharmaceutical and chemical group, has agreed to sell Master Builders Technologies, its chemical building products division, to SKW Trostberg, of Germany, for \$F1.3 billion (£700 million). The disposal comes after the merger of Sandoz and Ciba, another Swiss pharmaceutical company.

Bundesbank's cut adds strength to Clarke's hand

GILT-EDGED

Investors returning after a holiday break will observe a marked improvement in the international environment for gilts. The Bundesbank's aggressive failure to lower interest rates a month ago sparked a micro-ERM crisis, with marked pressure on the French franc and other European currencies. That episode has now been brought to a decisive end, with a clear move down in the German repo rate from 3.3 to 3 per cent.

The reasons for the initial decision not to cut, followed by a reduction rather larger than generally accepted, probably have more to do with politics than economics. The data on the German economy have indicated that a recovery is under way, albeit hesitantly.

The real purpose of delaying easing seems to have been to signal clearly to France and other would-be EMU participants that the Bundesbank still has the power to derail the whole process, and that power will be exercised unless the right terms are agreed, including a tough stability pact to limit budget deficits after monetary union starts.

Whatever the motives behind the Bundesbank's actions, they have now handed Kenneth Clarke a strong card in his debates with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. Any risk of sterling weakening markedly in response to a further 25 basis-point cut in UK base rates has been greatly reduced. Meanwhile, the short-term indicators seem to provide just about enough room for the Chancellor to demand successfully another cut, with good PPI data balancing a

slightly disappointing RPI, an unexpected slowdown in M4 contrasting with mortgage lending, and weakness in retail sales offsetting strength in some other real economy indicators.

Assuming that base rates are indeed cut again, how great a risk are the policymakers taking with future inflation? From the perspective of the paper on *Opportunistic Disinflation* published by two Federal Reserve Board staffers last month, UK policy is being run in a perfectly sensible way. That paper argued that a recession is inevitable sooner or later, probably from external causes, and when it happens the central bank should take the opportunity to make permanent the resulting decline in inflation. Meanwhile, it is inappropriate to terminate a happy economic upswing merely because of very tentative signs of slightly higher inflation. Policymakers should intervene to end a recovery only if inflation spikes decisively upward.

This kind of thinking tends to be viewed with great suspicion by investors, worried that policymakers are going "soft" on inflation. Yet soon after the paper was published, new data on the US economy showed that the recovery was soggier than expected, providing partial vindication for the view that it is foolish to err too much on the side of tightness in a global era of structural change and disinflation.

There are good grounds for translating this kind of policy bias to the UK, whose economic micro-flexibility most resembles the US, not just in labour markets but also in capital markets, whose role in the creation of new industries is crucial.

For gilts investors the problem with relying on such supply-side optimism is that they did this in 1988, only to discover that rapid growth resulted in a housing market boom and inflationary overheating. However, 1996 does not feel at all like 1988. Demand is not nearly so robust, as witnessed by last week's retail sales data. Consumers are still inclined to buy when retailers cut prices, and hold back when they then try to raise them. The housing market is the area to watch, but as yet the recovery is small compared to the boom of 1988. Indeed, the rise in house prices over the past year, and the next 5 per cent or so, may even be good for the supply side of the economy if they eliminate the last of the negative equity and free up people to move locations for new jobs.

The slashing of mortgage tax relief, the erosion of the real value of the £30,000 Miras cap, and the wider availability of alternative tax-efficient investments such as Tassas, all suggest that a house price boom is less likely. If the Chancellor's next 25 basis-point cut is one too many, we will see the effects first in the housing market. For now, it is a reasonable bet that those effects turn out to be benign rather than dangerous.

GILES KEATING
CS First Boston

Meglomedia bounces back, Celtic scores

MICK JAGGER is among the shareholders who will have profited from the triumphant return of Meglomedia, the computer graphics company run by Maurice Saatchi. Back from suspension at 94p, the enlarged group gained 20 to close at 114p, making it the week's star performer on the AIM.

Celtic's UEFA Cup round win helped to lift the price £20 to £295.

More rumours that Pan Andean Re-

sources is about to strike oil sent shares in the exploration group up 13p to 121p. Confirmation could see the shares reach 250p, sources say.

Last week's decision by UBS and BZW, the brokers, to pull out of AIM dealings made no impact on the market, according to Alexis Johnson, a trader at Winterlood Securities. While the two are giants in the City, their AIM profile was minuscule

and their withdrawal was met with indifference by market-makers.

The FT-SE AIM index gained 190 points over the week, closing at 1,072.50. Airtech, which makes coverage enhancement equipment for mobile telephones, is to float on the AIM, with a capitalisation of about £25 million.

FRASER NELSON

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Back to school in style — £30,000 in prizes to be won

Today *The Times*, in association with Chrysler, gives you the opportunity to win a fantastic Jeep Cherokee worth £19,550.

What better way to start the new term than to ferry the children in wheels like this? The Jeep Cherokee 4.0 Sport 4 x 4 has automatic transmission, anti-lock brakes, remote control central door locking, driver's airbag and side-impact protection guards.

The Cherokee is compact and easy to drive. Its power-assisted steering and tight turning circle help to make light work of heavy traffic. Plus it has good all-round visibility through the tinted windows.

Standard equipment includes electrically operated windows, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, a four-speaker Panasonic CQ-R30 stereo radio cassette player with CD autochanger controls.

Every Jeep Cherokee is equipped with a state-of-the-art transmission system allowing you to shift into 4-wheel drive by simply pulling a lever without stopping. So when you are not taking the children to school you can drive the family off the beaten track for weekend and holiday adventures.

Win one of 250 CD-Roms each worth £19.99

Today *The Times*, in association with publisher Marshall Cavendish, gives you the chance to win a version of *Swan Lake* on CD-Rom. The disc is based on Marshall Cavendish's best-selling partwork series *The Magical Music Box*, tells the story of *Swan Lake* and uses Tchaikovsky's famous piece to teach children aged six and upwards about music.

The disc set, launched next week, comes with a descendant recorder and is worth £19.99. We have 250 to give away as prizes worth nearly £3,000.

Packed with video clips, photographs and audio excerpts, children can learn to read and play music, compose or click onto musical instruments for demonstrations of their sound and watch musicians play.



HOW TO ENTER

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The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received before midnight on the closing date, Thursday, September 12, 1996. You can enter as many times as you like. Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL 0891 665 593

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times



Today *The Times*, in association with publisher Marshall Cavendish, gives you the chance to win a version of *Swan Lake* on CD-Rom. The disc is based on Marshall Cavendish's best-selling partwork series *The Magical Music Box*, tells the story of *Swan Lake* and uses Tchaikovsky's famous piece to teach children aged six and upwards about music.

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Packed with video clips, photographs and audio excerpts, children can learn to read and play music, compose or click onto musical instruments for demonstrations of their sound and watch musicians play.

THE TIMES SWAN LAKE COMPETITION

Send your entries to: *The Times Swan Lake Competition*, Marshall Cavendish Multimedia, Freeport, PO Box 1, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 4BR. Closing date September 12, 1996.

What is the correct term for a baby swan?

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms First name

Surname

Address

Postcode Day Tel

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or companies carefully selected by Times Newspapers Limited please tick this box

Mountain-climbing actors? Blessed nuisance

Honestly, I have nothing against Brian Blessed climbing mountains. But why, oh why, must he always take either a film crew or a tape recorder with him? Three times he has tried to climb Everest and I seem to have shared every miserable step.

Last night's *Summit Fever* (Channel 4) followed the familiar pattern. Boom, boom, boom went his most famous of actors as he prepared to go under way in Britain. Gasp, gasp, gasp he went as the Himalayan foothills and sudden altitude combined to cause effect. And wheeze, wheeze, thud, he went as the North Ridge proved 3,000 feet too far. The thud, by the way, was Blessed collapsing in the snow, having made it back down to camp at the top of the North Col. "I have done my best and that makes me happy."

I wonder, I wonder because so little appears to make Blessed

happy. Time and again, this great bear of a man proved a fellow of infinitely little jest. Where others thrive on a modest diet of self-deprecating humour, Blessed's is a kind of introspection. "Sometimes I feel optimistic and then suddenly I die inside. I die with fear. I've got to cope with my fear." Thanks to the film crew tagging along, so have we.

If he wasn't so big, you'd want to get hold of him and shake some sense into him. "Doctors and experts tell me that it is absolutely impossible for a man of my size to climb Everest," he bellowed at the peak of the booming phase. The problem is that so far the doctors and experts have been proved 100 per cent correct. But will Blessed be told? "I say to hell with that. I will not be restricted." Except by age, weight, fitness, altitude, weather, the North Ridge.

Blessed may be a poor travelling companion, but there was no

pleasure to be gained from the sight of Everest chewing him up and spitting him back to advance base camp. Over the following days he was joined by all his fellow amateurs on this \$24,000-a-head expedition: all of them younger, fitter and leaner than himself. This cheered him up a lot and before long he was booming endlessly on about some scarf the Dalai Lama had given him and his prayers for world peace. For anybody apart from Blessed, you'd put it down to altitude.

Despite the expedition coinciding with appalling weather (the death toll from other expeditions reached ten in the fortnight), Blessed's group was on the mountain, Matt Dickinson, the producer, and Al Linkins, the cameraman, did eventually make it to the summit. This was just reward for having captured some truly spectacular



Matthew Bond

footage of Everest's higher slopes. But there were more treats in store. There were, enjoying their moment at the top of the world and who should come over the radio but Blessed, reminding them to leave the Dalai Lama's scarf up there and to pray for world peace. "Can you see me?" boomed our man, waving excitedly from 8,000 feet below. No, but I'm sure that if they turned off their

radio they would have had absolutely no problem hearing him. Radios crackled to even less effect in Roger Roger (BBC1), a star-studded but ultimately disappointing comedy special from the normally reliable pen of John Sullivan. Not for the first time, a minicab firm provided the situation and the opening ten minutes of an over-long hour, it looked as if the man who gave us *Only Fools and Horses* would provide the comedy as normal.

But having briskly established the personnel of Cresta Cars and reeled off one or two good one-liners ("Phil, you've got to decide: do you want to be a pop star or a minicab driver?") it disintegrated into a series of predictable set-pieces: the West African driver who took his passengers to Farnham in Kent rather than Farnham in Hampshire, a particularly man and part-time driver who was having trouble with dogs — until a

helpful colleague sold him an electronic dog deterrent. This section, in turn, made way for something very curious indeed, a storyline involving Phil (Neil Morrissey), the man-eating wife of his favourite rock star and said rock star himself — one Jimmy Price of Original Sin. It ended with Phil being rather convincingly beaten up by Price's henchmen, despite having resisted the fully revealed charms of "Nalim, the high priestess of love," aka Mrs Price. Well, I told you it was curious.

Neither Morrissey as Phil nor Robert Daws as Sam, the ineffectually officious owner of Cresta Cars, had to extend themselves in their new roles but what they did they did well enough. In fact, the whole cast were pretty good, in particular Pippa Guard as office supremo Keen, suggesting that if

the idea is to have a future as a series, then it is Sullivan who needs to sit down with the executive producer and decide exactly what sort of comedy he is going to write. The name of the executive producer? John Sullivan.

The words "Noel Edmonds" and "delight" are not normally found together in any sentence of my making, but I shall make an exception for *Multi-coloured Saturdays* (BBC1). It was presented by him and was one. This was the story of 20 years of Saturday morning television, a succession of shows each aimed at children but attracting a large following of those old enough to know better as well. As Edmonds put it, the rule and cast have changed over the years, but the format survives almost untouched. "How have the BBC got away with it?" he asked. I have no idea, but as someone who has enjoyed all 20 of those years, I was very glad they had.

REVIEW

CHOICE

Picture This: Remember Albert

BBC2 8.00pm

Albert Johannesen, 1942-95. Ring any bells? Perhaps now only with his fans — and of Leeds United. Born in the South African township, Albert "Black Flash" Johannesen was spotted for his already proverbial speed and brought to Britain by Leeds United. In 1965 was the first black footballer to play in an FA Cup Final. Shy, obsessively well-dressed, "Hurry Hurry," as he'd been known back home, became a hero, recognised and applauded wherever he went. But when he took to drink Leeds let him go and although York City put him on the books, he never played. Baffled fans and relatives recall how "the just want downhill... this giant of a man." From their recollections Albert emerges as modest, likeable and a great sportsman. But he died alone, in abject poverty. What was the cause of this?

My Good Friend

ITV 8.30pm

The return of Bob Larbey's gentle sitcom which dealt with the perils of loneliness is high on the list — but usually finds a silver lining behind most clouds. Part of the fun is watching George Cole acting against the grain as Peter, a heart-of-gold oldie who is still impish, ironic and sexually alert. He is constantly at war with the way things are but wistfully aware that he may be a burden to his daughter (Annabel Apsion) and her uptight hubby (Michael Pearson). In this opener he is caught shoplifting a chocolate bar and though he clearly has no memory of his "crime" the store manager (Michael Troughton) acts like a little Hitler — an attitude which of course brings out the worst in Peter.

Clive James — Postcard from Hong Kong

ITV 9.00pm

Witty (of course) but with fewer puns and one-liners than his earlier *Postcards*. The influence of Carlton Television — or is the old Aussie really as impressed and anxious for this disappearing colony as he makes out? The money-maker, high-rise city — "like a brilliant teardrop falling out of China's eye" — is, of course, due to be handed back to China in 1997. How will this affect the six million who live there? James plays tennis with Chris Patten (and loses) while the Governor explains, inscrutably, that: "We owe it to them to try and put some pangs of guilt in their windows." After the usual markets, a hilarious boat ride and champagne with the jetsetters, James visits the grave of his father in Hong Kong's war cemetery. A moving note on which to end.

True Stories: Procedure 769

Channel 4, 10.15pm

This is a documentary about the step-by-step procedure for carrying out the death of a convicted murderer. It is extraordinary in that it is harrowing to watch and the only possible good that can come of it (I speak subjectively) will be further to underline the obscenity of the death sentence. In 1992 the Procedure was followed for the first time in 25 years. The double murderer, Robert Harris, had been in prison since 1978. The media outside the gates of San Quentin on execution night outnumbered the anti-execution protesters (but not, I suspect, the ghoulies while inside 500 invited onlookers were eating a slap-up meal while they awaited the moment Harris would be led to the gas chamber. The director has racked down many of these witnesses and each gives a different account of what they saw... Elizabeth Cowley



Albert Johannesen (8.00pm)

Picture This: Remember Albert. A film about former Leeds United footballer, Albert Johannesen (Celexa) (s) (5973)

8.00 Tracks. Nick Fisher has a go at high-tech hiking with a tent you can assemble in 30 seconds and food you can heat without a stove (Celexa) (s) (4008)

9.00 FILM: *Barbarosa* (1992) with Gary Busey and Willie Nelson. Western about a notorious but amiable outlaw who befriends a runaway farm boy and teaches him the art of survival. Directed by Fred Schepisi (Celexa). Followed by Video Nation Shorts (4447)

10.30 Newsnight. In the week of the Democratic convention in Chicago, Jeremy Paxman is joined by satellite by Charles Wheeler (54973)

11.15 Edinburgh Nights (s). Followed by Weatherview (181737)

12.05am Grace under Fire. Grace is faced with a dilemma when she needs to find a babysitter for Patrick (s) (5635867)

12.30-5.00 The Learning Zone (56583)

SKY SPORTS

12.00 Mar. 01 (7334805) 12.30pm Beach Volleyball (9523379) 1.00pm Open Tennis (8660304) 1.00pm US Open Tennis — Live (8612373) 2.00pm Major League Baseball (9524875) 2.00pm World of Speed and Beauty (3894840) 11.30-12.00 Sports Centre (1319109)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00pm Praise for the Day 4.05 Worship 4.15 Praise 4.20 Praise 4.25 Praise 4.30 Praise 4.35 Praise 4.40 Praise 4.45 Praise 4.50 Praise 4.55 Praise 5.00 Praise 5.05 Praise 5.10 Praise 5.15 Praise 5.20 Praise 5.25 Praise 5.30 Praise 5.35 Praise 5.40 Praise 5.45 Praise 5.50 Praise 5.55 Praise 6.00 Praise 6.05 Praise 6.10 Praise 6.15 Praise 6.20 Praise 6.25 Praise 6.30 Praise 6.35 Praise 6.40 Praise 6.45 Praise 6.50 Praise 6.55 Praise 7.00 Praise 7.05 Praise 7.10 Praise 7.15 Praise 7.20 Praise 7.25 Praise 7.30 Praise 7.35 Praise 7.40 Praise 7.45 Praise 7.50 Praise 7.55 Praise 8.00 Praise 8.05 Praise 8.10 Praise 8.15 Praise 8.20 Praise 8.25 Praise 8.30 Praise 8.35 Praise 8.40 Praise 8.45 Praise 8.50 Praise 8.55 Praise 9.00 Praise 9.05 Praise 9.10 Praise 9.15 Praise 9.20 Praise 9.25 Praise 9.30 Praise 9.35 Praise 9.40 Praise 9.45 Praise 9.50 Praise 9.55 Praise 10.00 Praise 10.05 Praise 10.10 Praise 10.15 Praise 10.20 Praise 10.25 Praise 10.30 Praise 10.35 Praise 10.40 Praise 10.45 Praise 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BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK 16

TUESDAY AUGUST 27 1996

Neilson Cobbold takeover may bring £3.1m bonus for viscount

By Jason Nisse

VISCOUNT LIFFORD, a director of Neilson Cobbold, the Liverpool stockbroker, could be in line for a bonus of up to £3.1 million as a result of the takeover of the firm by Rathbone Brothers, the financial services group.

This is just one of a series of incentives being given to senior staff at Neilson as part of the offer

from Rathbone, which values the Liverpool group at an initial £7.5 million only.

Some of the directors of Neilson will be banking more than £800,000 from the takeover and ten directors, including two who will be joining the Rathbone board, have been given contracts tying them into the company until December 31, 2000. This far exceeds the guidelines set down in the

Rathbone defends incentive despite breach of Greenbury

Greenbury committee on executive pay.

The deal is structured so that Rathbone is offering an initial 250p a share for Neilson, valuing the company at £7.5 million.

On top of that there is a special dividend worth 48p a share and

further consideration of up to 230p a share if the group hits a series of performance targets over the next two years. The maximum value of the offer to Neilson shareholders is £15.9 million.

Rathbone is also offering bonuses to senior Neilson staff, including

three directors, if they hit the same performance targets. The biggest beneficiary will be Viscount Lifford, who runs the firm's Winchester office.

He has an interest in 268,800 Neilson shares, which are worth £800,000, despite selling more than

60,000 at only 205p earlier this year.

Michael Bryant, Rathbone marketing director, said that, if Viscount Lifford was responsible for bringing in a large amount of funds to be managed by the firm, he could take the whole £3.1 million bonus.

Viscount Lifford and Mark Pearson, Neilson's chairman, will be joining the Rathbone board and

are among the ten directors being given contracts running until the end of 2000. Mr Bryant is an unapologetic about the three-and-a-half-year contracts, despite the Greenbury guidelines.

He said: "These people are staying with us. We'll let them go if they die or get decrepit. But we won't let them jump ship. That's what the service contracts are for."

US telecoms deal creates \$23bn group

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE sweeping reorganisation of America's telecommunications industry gathered pace yesterday with the \$14.4 billion takeover by WorldCom of MFS Communications.

The takeover will create one of the largest telecoms groups in the US, larger than MCI Communications and many regional phone companies. The company will have a market capitalisation of \$23 billion, and annual revenues of \$5.4 billion, which are growing at 30 per cent a year. It will provide long-distance and local phone services and Internet access.

It is the third big deal in the industry this year as companies scramble to protect their positions in the local and long-distance phone markets as the market is deregulated.

This month, MFS bought UUNET Technologies, one of the prime Internet access companies that provides users with a route into the world computer network. Last November, UUNET strengthened its Internet services by buying Unipalm, one of the main UK Internet companies, for \$152 million. Now known as PipeX, the Cambridge company is likely to benefit from the massive resources and customer base of the group of which it is now a part.

WorldCom, the fourth largest US telephone company, is paying \$55.38 for each MFS share in the all-paper deal, a 59 per cent premium which analysts said was high but not unrealistic. The companies hope to achieve savings through cost cutting in areas where their operations overlap. Gleacher NatWest, the investment bank bought by National Westminster earlier this year, handled the deal for MFS, while Salomon Brothers acted for WorldCom.

The new group will be particularly strong in the lucrative business market and is likely to provide formidable competition to the "baby bells", the regional US phone companies that rely on business traffic for much of their revenue. Much of MFS's local network is more advanced than those of the baby bells since it is based on fibre-optic cable.

New rules governing the telecoms industry allow regional and long-distance operators to break into each other's markets, which were previously segregated. The combination of WorldCom and MFS will create the first genuinely "one-stop" telecoms provider offering both local and long-distance services. Deals earlier this year between SBC and Pacific Tele-tele, and Nynex and Bell Atlantic, were between regional companies protecting their ex-

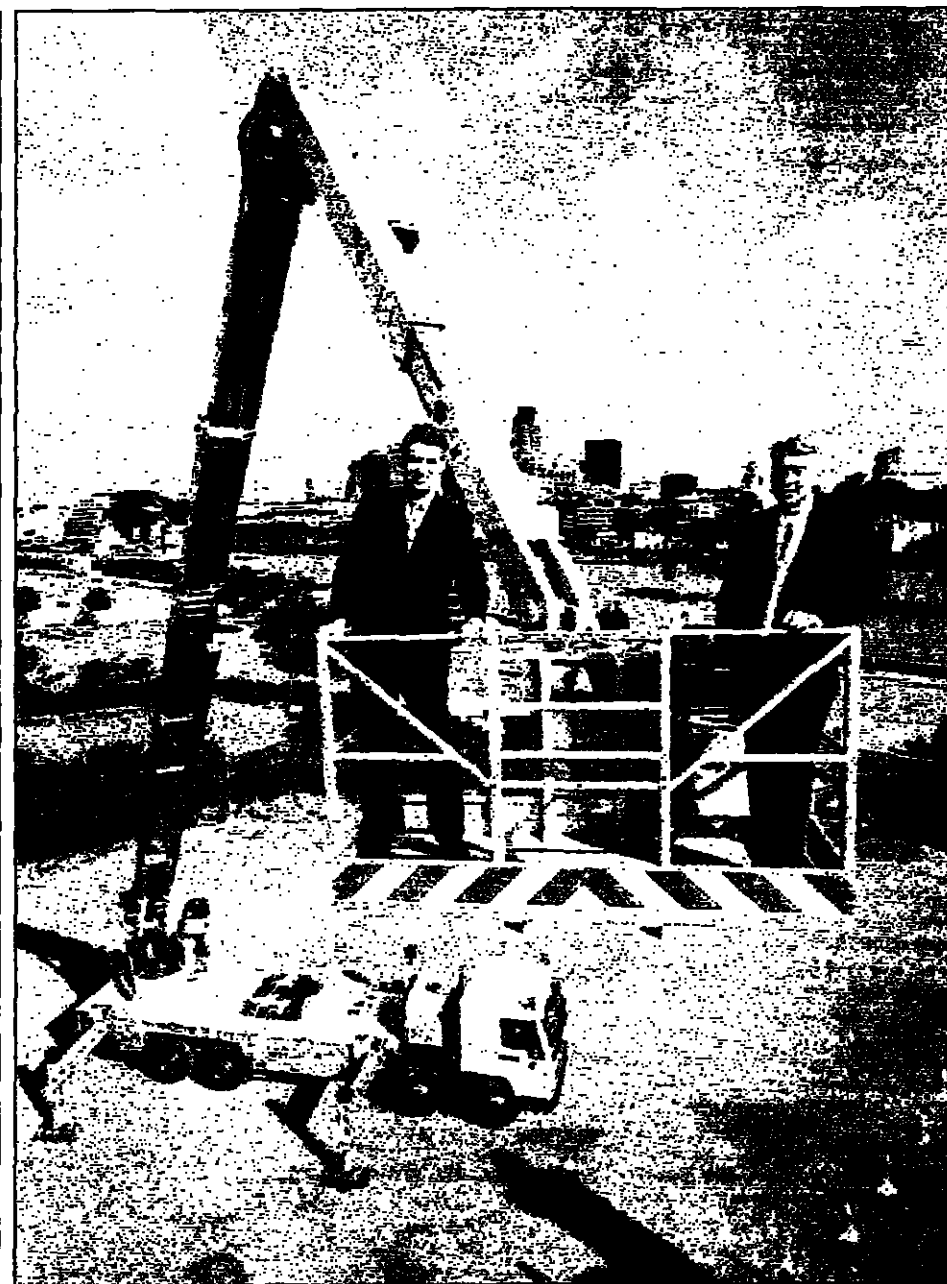
isting local telephone business.

Among the long-distance providers, AT&T has restructured itself before deregulation of the industry but has no strong local phone network. Executives concede that it could take years for AT&T to create one.

In a separate development, MCI, which is 20 per cent owned by BT, yesterday signed a ten-year deal with NextWave Telecom that thrusts MCI into the top tier of wireless communications providers in America.

MCI will connect its network to a system planned by NextWave to provide personal communications services, giving it the capacity to offer service to more than 110 million individuals in 63 areas, including 29 of the top 50 markets. MCI, which is based in Washington, said it will buy at least ten billion minutes of capacity for its personal communications services from NextWave over ten years. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Personal communications services represent the new generation of cellular communications services, allowing customers to send both voice and data transmissions over wireless telephones. AT&T's wireless subsidiary, the former McCaw Cellular business, remains twice as large as MCI's cellular business, with about 6.5 million subscribers in geographic regions covering 207 million potential customers.



David Price, chairman, right, and David Shipman, finance director, are seeking a listing

Lavendon seeks a £12m lift

THE hydraulics that propel TV cameras to grandstand views for sporting events such as Wimbledon and the Grand National are heading for the stock market (Christine Buckley writes). Lavendon Group, operator of the UK's biggest fleet of powered access equipment, hopes to raise up to £12 million through a placing of new shares with institutions later this year.

The group, based in Lutterworth, Leicester-

shire, has lifted pre-tax profits from £159,000 in 1993 to £1.8 million last year. Powered access equipment has enjoyed a boom recently with customers favouring it over traditional methods of reaching high points such as scaffolding. Apart from film and TV work the systems are also used for construction, industrial repair and maintenance and telecommunications. Lavendon was created four years ago by David Price, a former GKN divisional chief executive.

Lawyers study peace plan for troubled tobacco firms

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

A RADICAL new proposal for legislation is being prepared in Washington that could bring to an abrupt end the avalanche of lawsuits brought against the embattled tobacco industry by former smokers.

US lawmakers are scrutinising a plan to give the industry immunity from legal action and regulation by the Food and Drug Administration for 15 years. In return, tobacco companies would pay the Government huge sums of money to be used to cover the medical costs of smoking, anti-smoking campaigns and some reimbursement for individuals suffering from tobacco-related diseases. The current scheme is for the industry to pay \$6 billion in 1997, rising to \$10 billion in the fourth year and continuing for the next 11 years.

If brought into law, the plan would save the tobacco companies from the growing tide of legal challenges by individuals and by US states hoping to claim back the medical costs of treating smokers.

These fears have hammered tobacco share prices, which have fallen about 20 per cent in the last few weeks after a \$750,000 award to a smoker in Jacksonville who sued after contracting lung cancer. In London more than £5 billion has been wiped from the value of BAT shares since February.

Shares also suffered because of a government move to give regulation of the industry to the FDA which takes a hard line against smoking. President Clinton is also taking a strong stand against tobacco. However, court

awards against tobacco companies are rare and are usually overturned on appeal. In a case last week, the widow of a smoker who died of lung cancer was refused compensation by a court.

The proposed legislation would short-circuit such legal procedures. Fourteen states are currently suing the industry to recover the heavy medical costs of smokers, but under the new plan they would get an immediate contribution from the industry.

Swiss Re considers M&G offer

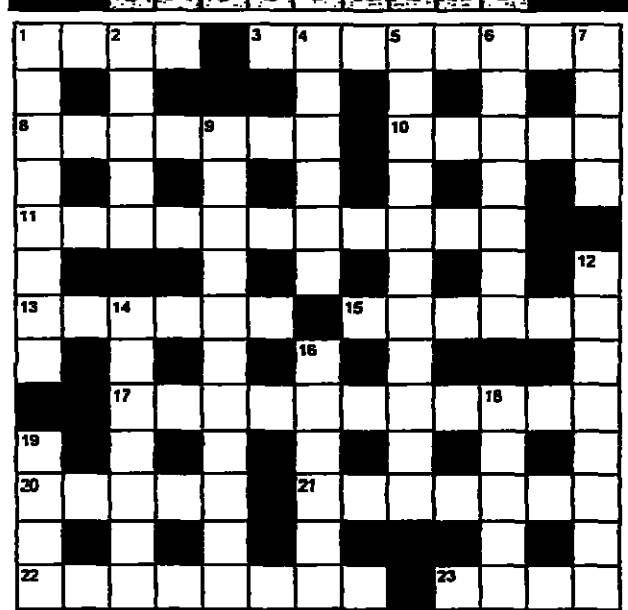
SWISS RE yesterday emerged as a potential bidder for Mercantile & General, the reinsurance arm of Prudential Corporation (Martin Barrow writes).

The company, which sold M&G to the Prudential 18 years ago, is believed to be ready to make an offer that could be worth more than £15 billion.

Swiss Re signalled its interest in M&G after the Prudential's announcement that it was to seek a separate stock market listing for M&G in the autumn, while retaining a minority interest.

Neither Swiss Re nor the Prudential would comment yesterday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 871

ACROSS

- 1 Cut; place for accused (4)
- 3 Able to be felt (8)
- 8 Racketeer (7)
- 10 Borders (5)
- 11 She had to be above suspicion (7,4)
- 13 Attack from concealment (6)
- 15 Big container for liquid (6)
- 17 A pampered darling (4-4,3)
- 20 Divide in two (5)
- 21 1930s stylised crafts movement (3,4)
- 22 Hole in tyre (8)
- 23 Surrender (4)

DOWN

- 1 Popular-suffrage advocate (8)
- 2 Elec. wire; strong rope (5)
- 4 Detain (suspect) (6)
- 5 Dilemma, quandary (11)
- 6 A bete noire (7)
- 7 Otherwise (4)
- 9 Allowing diffuse light through (11)
- 12 Highland sword (8)
- 14 Nebuchadnezzar's capital (7)
- 16 Mend (6)
- 18 Short accent; long note (5)
- 19 Cut of meat; cut (wood) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 870

ACROSS: 1 Robber 6 Pin 8 Aikward 9 Voter 10 Ivor 11 Netherland 13 Tidian 14 Delate 17 Sketched 18 Ogee 20 Either 21 Suppose 22 Fan 23 Tearsheet
DOWN: 1 Pianist 2 Take on the chin 3 Oval 4 Ladder 5 Reviewer 6 Fit like a glove 7 North 12 Baccarat 15 Element 16 Persia 17 Sheaf 19 Ape

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Last-ditch Lloyd's bid to overturn court ruling

By Oliver August

LOYD'S OF LONDON will make a last-ditch effort in a US court today to overturn an injunction against its £3.2 billion reconstruction proposals that 34,000 names have to accept by noon tomorrow.

Lloyd's is appealing against a ruling by a court in Virginia in favour of 93 US names who are demanding more information about the proposals.

The US names are pre-

pared to fight a lengthy legal battle beyond tomorrow's deadline. John Head, spokesman for the Association of Lloyd's State Chairmen, said: "We want our day in court. Iron-clad, total, legal and

financial rescission from Lloyd's with restitution." One loss-making US name, Travis Smith, a 79-year-old pensioner from California, said that the legal effort represented a last chance to save what little he had left. "We're hanging on to spider webs," he said.

On Monday, Lloyd's said that 75 per cent of the 34,000 names had already agreed to the reconstruction proposals.

But a London-based Lloyd's action group yesterday protested that this figure was meaningless as an indicator of potential success because the remaining 25 per cent were likely to include those names who have to pay the most.

Alfred Doll-Steinberg, representing the Gooda-Walker action group, said: "The people that have signed up are the people that have very little to pay. The decision is on a knife's edge. This can't be solved by August 28, that's totally unbelievable. There will have to be a second attempt to pick up the stragglers."

Under the proposals, names are divided into six groups. They range from a group of 12,500 names who will receive money from Lloyd's to a group of 4,400 names at the opposite end of the scale who will have to pay Lloyd's more than £100,000.

OFT ruling due on bid for ex-BR company

Stagecoach ready to roll

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BRIDGEMAN, the Director-General of Fair Trading, is this week expected to make his recommendation to the Government about the £825 million takeover bid for the Porterbrook train leasing company by Stagecoach.

The bid has caused a political furor because of the £80 million of profits set to be earned by the directors and staff of Porterbrook, which owns about a quarter of the passenger rolling stock in Britain.

Even if Mr Bridgeman recommends that no reference to the Monopolies and



Souter: confident of success

Mergers Commission is justified by the bid, Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, may personally authorise an inquiry.

The bid is the first major corporate takeover of a privatised former British Rail company and has raised deep concerns in the rail industry about its implications for competition for franchises.

Brian Souter, the executive chairman of Stagecoach, which operates the South West Trains franchise and is bidding for others, has said he is confident the bid will be cleared because of the undertaking he has given to Mr Bridgeman.

Further details will emerge this week when both Stagecoach and Porterbrook stage extraordinary meetings to approve the proposed takeover.

SFO role queried as chief sought

By Jon Ashworth
AND ROBERT MILLER

SENIOR civil servants have started the hunt for a new figurehead at the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) before the imminent departure of George Staple, its director for the past four years.

The process, which involves the Civil Service Commission and is performed independently of the SFO, is likely to have an important bearing on the future status of the SFO, which is struggling to cope with an increasingly busy workload. A decision is expected in the autumn.

Mr Staple, a former partner in Clifford Chance, the City law firm, is due to step down in April 1997, leaving a newly structured SFO.

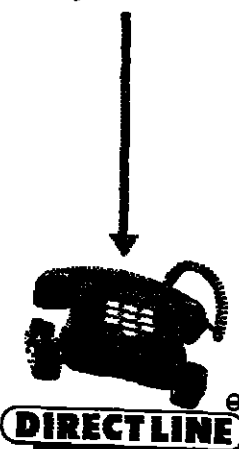
Reforms recommended in the Davies Committee's report of March 1995 saw the threshold for investigating cases fall from £5 million to £1 million.

This, coupled with a decision not to merge the SFO with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), has led to a sharp increase in cases and raised questions, in some quarters, as to how long the SFO can cope with the current run of activity.

The SFO's budget has fallen in the past couple of years, stretching resources. Currently it has 79 cases on its books. September alone is set to be one of the SFO's busiest months with five high-profile cases scheduled to come before the courts, one involving the sum of £1.2 billion.

Gearing up, page 42

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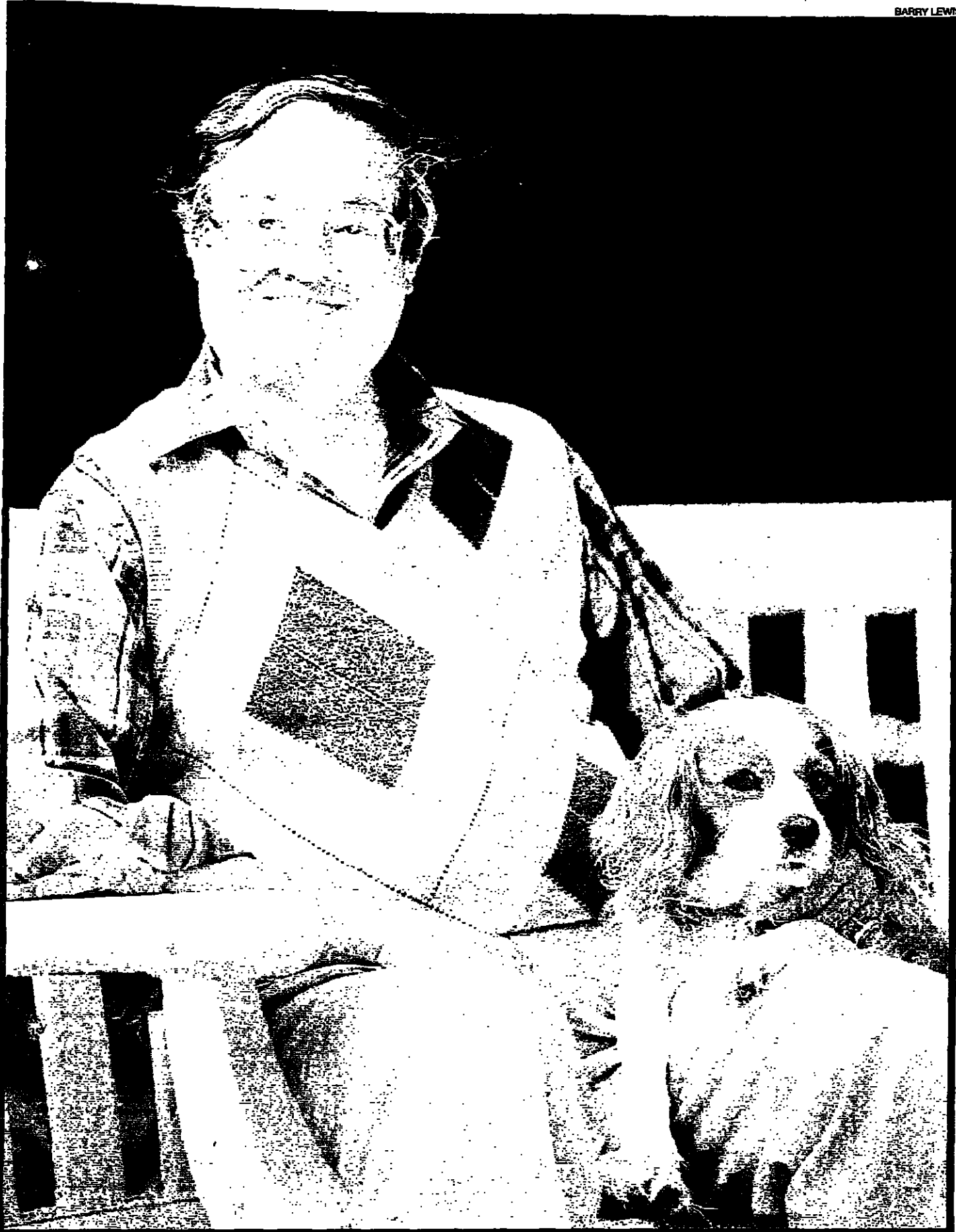
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on being in the middle and John Mortimer and David Emerson on life without siblings



John Mortimer on being an only child: "My father was a perpetual source of entertainment, and I didn't have to share him"

'The joys of childhood are exaggerated'

There are some disadvantages in being an only child. I used to perform extremely truncated versions of Shakespeare's plays on the dining room stairs to a long-suffering audience consisting solely of my mother and father. As I was an only child, I had to duel with myself, make love to myself as my own mother and force myself to drink from my own poisoned chalice. These performances may have been tedious to watch, but I hope that it was a good training for writing dramatic words with numerous characters, all of whom had, in the final analysis, to be me.

I was the only child of an eccentric, blind barrister father with a keen sense of humour and an atrocious temper, and a gentle ex-artist mother who devoted her life to him. We lived in the small house with the large garden where I still live, and my father discouraged visitors because he didn't want anyone to feel sorry for him. He spent a lot of time gardening among the flowers he couldn't see, and when my mother warned him that visitors were approaching, he would move his stool to a hiding place until the danger was past.

This meant that I spent long stretches of my school holidays alone with my parents. Being alone led to endless games of solitary pretence, and also the early development of a split personality which is essential to writers. I was always someone else who observed what I was doing and commented on it, usually unkindly. "There he goes," I would say to myself. "Showing off again" or "He's running round the garden pretending he's leading a troop of Spahis in the French Foreign Legion. What extraordinarily childish behaviour." Being alone I was always observing myself as someone else. In this way, I suppose, I populated my world.

Only children grow up quickly, because they spend so much of their time with grown-ups. I've always considered this an advantage. The joys of childhood are greatly exaggerated; it can be an alarming and frustrating period of

THE ONLY CHILD



At Harrow: no team spirit

life when everyone talks down to you and no one takes you seriously. I was immensely lucky in having parents who always treated me as an equal. My father was a perpetual source of entertainment, and I didn't have to share him.

We went for many walks together and he told me all the Sherlock Holmes stories, as well as the scandalous details of the divorce cases in which he specialised. He knew most of the plays of Shakespeare by heart, and, on our annual visit to Stratford-on-Avon, he was, from his seat in the front row of the stalls, of enormous help to the actors because he could say all the lines loudly about five seconds before they got to them. He would make Shakespearean jokes such as "Who's the Irishman in Hamlet? The chap Hamlet's speaking to when he says, 'Now could I do it — par'." He quoted Hubert, in *King John*, about to put out little Arthur's eyes, as referring to a firm of solicitors called "Rushforth and Blind-the-boy". Because of his blindness, I had to read him poetry at night and became, early acquainted with Browning and Kipling and Shake-

peare's sonnets. I still think of my walks with my father as the most valuable part of my education, and was pleased not to have to share it.

An only childhood does produce certain results. One is a noted lack of group loyalty. I never felt passionately attached to the "Old School", feeling that loyalty to the place where you bought your education is rather like being loyal to Marks & Spencer because you bought socks there. I never had much "team spirit", but then as I have spent a lifetime avoiding all forms of sport, there hasn't been much call for it. Not having brothers and sisters to compete with for attention has, I hope, made me uncompetitive, and the alleged virtues of competition, constantly invoked during the Teacher years, passed my understanding. The only worthwhile competition seems to me to be that you have with yourself — and the best writers as well as the best towns, restaurants and love affairs are not in competition with each other, but are like only children, they are a series of one-offs.

Only children escape the desperate rivalry of brothers and sisters, which can have dramatic expression. I once took one of my daughters, then very young, to see an elder sister act Gertrude in *Hamlet*, that play I did not understand. When Gertrude drank from the fatal chalice, her young sister said "Hurrah! There's poison in that. She's going to die!" I did, however, have times when I fantasised about having a beautiful sister.

And a solitary childhood has probably led me to go in for children in a far bigger way. When I married my first wife, she already had four children, and we proceeded to have two more. My present wife and I also have two. I am glad to say I have never, for almost half a century, been without fairly young children and I am delighted when many of them are capering round the garden where I once walked alone with myself.

JOHN MORTIMER

What do only children miss most?

THE difficulties of being an only child are no more or less than those of any other child — they are simply different.

The distinct family environment of the only child totals just three. Within this unit the only social interactions involving the child are with an adult, and the only ones they can observe are between two

SIMPLY DIFFERENT

adults. Therefore "onlys" can neither observe nor take part in interactions with siblings. So is missing the rough and tumble a difficulty? At the time probably not. The consequences are felt much later, in adulthood. It is then that the

handicap of missing the experience becomes apparent, often in emotional relationships. Early interacting with adults generates a large vocabulary and great social skills. Yet, behind this is someone inexperienced and fearful of relation-

ships, although it is not a situation unique to onlys.

Being the only one is to be both the focus of adult attention and that of all expectation — whether educational, professional or just the only chance for marriage and grandchildren. While onlys may also receive all the "goodies" of parental time they also get and feel all the blame if something goes wrong — as there's no one else, it must be them, mustn't it? Only children often take much longer to develop a realistic self-image.

Let us nail one myth — that of the "lonely only". Many value this sense of independence, of being happy with their own company — indeed positively relishing and needing it at times.

The strongest and most heartfelt opinions we heard were from onlys with the sole responsibility of caring for elderly parents. While in other families one sibling may take prime caring responsibility, they do have others to talk or refer to — that absence leaves a huge burden.

Though none of our interviewees said they'd have one child by choice, this is not to say "don't have an only". Rather it is to say "recognise what the child will be missing in rough and tumble and work our ways to compensate". It is no better or worse being an only, just different.

DAVID EMERSON

David Emerson and Jill Pinkethley, both only children themselves, interviewed more than 60 adult only-children, their partners and their friends for their book *Only Child — How to Survive Being One*.

TOMORROW



Anjana Ahuja on coping with the death of a sibling

"Britain is somewhat of a fallen idol"

The Times Correspondent in Bonn, 9 August 1963

"The trouble is we don't believe in anything; we don't believe in communism, or in anti-communism, or in free enterprise."

Anthony Sampson quoting an un-named Cabinet Minister in 'Anatomy of Britain', 1962.

Does this explain to you the 'alarming picture of co-ordinated drift' which he portrays?

Is it irrational to believe that Britain could once more give what we have given in the past — a moral lead in the world?

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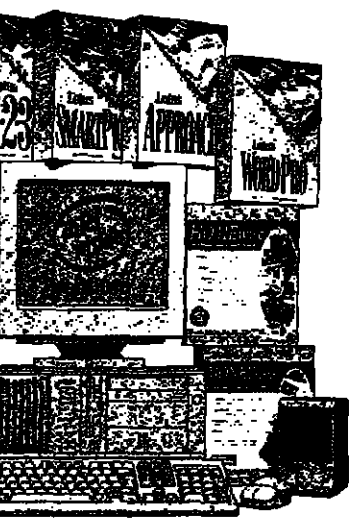
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■ VISUAL ART

The unpredictable talent of the mercurial Mexican Gabriel Orozco is showcased in a new ICA exhibition



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■ TOMORROW

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VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the pointed playfulness of Gabriel Orozco at the ICA



"Confronted by a heap of watermelons, he slipped ten cans of cat food on top of them, turning the fruit into bizarre bodies for the feline intruders": Gabriel Orozco's *Cats and Watermelons*

Laugh – and be worried

Unlike his celebrated namesake José Clemente Orozco, whose fiery energies were concentrated on painting revolutionary murals in Mexico's public buildings, Gabriel Orozco is forever on the move. This mercurial young Mexican often returns to his native land, but he is equally familiar with Berlin, Madrid and New York. His ICA exhibition, the largest show he has staged in Britain, seems impossible to pin down. Darting restlessly between countries, from one strategy and medium to another, he is the most unpredictable artist of his generation.

At first, no apparent links

can be detected between the objects ranged across the floor of the downstairs gallery. By far the largest of them, *La DS*, is a sliced and altered Citroën car. Its gleaming sleekness might seem to have nothing in common with the ungainly lump of dull plasticine and dust, the swollen rubber spheroid or the crazily intertwined bicycles all displayed near by. Gradually, though, they turn out to have surprising affinities with each other.

All of them share the possibility of movement. From the streamlined speed inherent in the Citroën to the wobbly wanderings of the rubber sculpture, they refuse to settle into the customary role of a

static gallery exhibit. Moreover, they have emerged from obsolescence, gaining new life as Orozco transforms their potential. The rubber piece was originally the inner tube of a lorry tyre. Cut open, sealed with a couple of patches and then reinflated, it takes on an overblown identity bordering on the comic.

Humour, tinged with absurdity, is never far away in Orozco's work. The old Dutch bicycles joined together with bewildering efficiency look, from a distance, as if they could each be disentangled and ridden out of the room. But closer examination discloses that their fusion would defy any such attempt. Robbed of any function, they become instead a tangled monument to pointlessness.

There is, however, no suggestion of despair in Orozco's fascination with futility. The

Citroën gains an extraordinary potency from his meticulous interference with its bodywork. Taking a vintage model from the 1950s, he cut it lengthways into three segments. After the removal of the central piece, the other two portions were fitted together with uncanny skill. The join is invisible, and from the sides this classic icon of postwar car styling still seems beguilingly intact. When viewed from the back or front, the sharp-prowed machine, thin to the point of anorexia, possesses a predatory menace.

Just at the moment when we think Orozco's intentions are becoming clear, he shows a cunning delight in confounding us. Take *Elevator*, which dominates one of the spaces upstairs. Rusty and redundant, it seems like an abandoned relic of a nondescript building long since pulverised

by the demolition men. Most of us would not accord this battered cabin more than a glance if we came across it lying in a junkyard. But here, restored to a vertical position and exposing the machine parts formerly hidden by the lift-shaft, it oozes all the accumulated melancholy of humdrum offices, hotels and apartment blocks mouldering in seedy urban locations throughout the world.

Not content with making us feel the intrinsic sadness of a lift without a function, Orozco leaves the door open and invites us to step inside. Its ceiling has been lowered to the height of the artist, forcing me to stoop. So the claustrophobia latent within any metal container is intensified and an object that initially appears absurd is transformed, by a sly act of manipulation, into a reminder of the prowess it no longer commands.

Perhaps Orozco's Mexican origins help to give him the perspective of a perpetual outsider, viewing the products of other Western societies through a sensibility formed in the "developing world".

In *Empty Club*, the remarkable Artangel project recently carried out in the grandiose rooms of a former gentlemen's club at 50 St James's Street, he conducted a coolly ironic meditation on Englishness. As ever, his meanings often proved elusive. But in Orozco's extensive photographic work, recording the deft interventions he likes to make in outdoor locations, his satirical streak becomes more overt.

Island on an Island takes as its springboard the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, soaring amid a cluster of neighbouring Manhattan skyscrapers. He relegates their phallic bulk to the distance, contrasting it with a forlorn and deserted parking lot. In front of a decaying concrete wall, Orozco assembles an improvised model of the towers beyond. Probably made from detritus he has scavenged from the streets of New York, the miniature skyscrapers stand in a puddle that mimics the Manhattan waterfront. The model's scrappiness punctures the overweening

pretensions of the buildings behind and, by extension, reflects pithily on the gulf between centres of extreme Western affluence and the desolation so often found outside their limits.

Not that Orozco could ever be described as a polemical artist. *Island on an Island* typifies his ability to make trenchant observations in a playful and ironic manner. A quicksilver wit darts through his other photographic pieces as well. Once, confronted by a heap of watermelons in a supermarket, he slipped ten small cans of cat food on top of them. This surreptitious move countered the banality of the watermelon display, turning the ordinary pile of fruit into bizarre, swollen bodies for the feline intruders.

Looking at the cheeky *Cats and Watermelons*, our first reaction is to smile at Orozco's Surrealist-influenced wit. But, on a deeper level, his insertion of the anomalous tins makes the watermelons suddenly appear bloated. They show how gross the endlessly repetitive abundance of supermarket produce can easily become. Only the cats' steady gazes, unflickered yet alert, provide relief amid this orgy of consumerism. Their vigilant eyes could almost belong to Orozco, as he persists in scrutinising and illuminating the disordered universe around him.

● Gabriel Orozco at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (0171-930 3647) until Sept 22

At least the piano gives us a lead

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: A surreal and insubstantial evening of Spanish acrobatics at the King's Theatre

Unlike *Elsinore*, where Robert Lepage's technology was defeated by the rake, the Catalan spectacular *L'esplèndida vergonya del fet mal fet* made it on to the King's stage. Even so, rehearsals for the show's conclusion must have been tense, for while a woman in pink, strapped to something like a two-limbed windmill, is being jerked from 20 to 2 to 20 past 10, and spewing arcs of water from her crotch, three wardrobes and a sailing boat are being lifted 10ft above the stage.

This is a show to remind us that Catalonia occupies a lot of space in the atlas of Surrealism. Big, bold, beautiful, baffling images move slowly in front of us. Acrobats stamp, spring, float or chew mouthfuls of golden hair. Boats, confined spaces and ropes of hair are images that frequently return, but the most persistent character is an ambulating pianola. It plays (I think) upper C a great many times in the opening darkness and is still in full vigour an hour later, arpeggios rippling along the keyboard. In between these two points its umbilical cable has controlled its pilgrimage around the stage. Sometimes a mermaid lies on top of it, sometimes a flying violinist hovers above.

On second thoughts, the pianola is not a full character but the housing for the princ-

pal combatant, the music of Carlos Santos. Santos is also author, designer and director, and the message of his show – he asks us not to look for a meaning – is straightforward: listen to the music, watch the pretty visuals that go with it.

Lacking the knowledge to make deep comments on the music, save for noting that slanting the wardrobe doors adds percussive effects, and that Italian arias are included, I have to fall back on what happened within eyeshot. The standard imagery of psychoanalysis is well to the fore. An enchantress on a sea-blue bed, the virile young acrobat, the ship's captain with a two-master on his turban. The youth with a headdress and backdress consisting of a large pink pawn is a reminder that Dali's castle is just along the coast from Barcelona.

These effects are handsomely coloured, sometimes funny, almost always slow. The violinist looks marvellous soaring over the pianola or leaning at an impossible angle from an upper corner of it, still playing. But while acknowledging the agility of the performers, this pageant is insubstantial. In a programme note Santos translates the title and asks: "What is the splendid shame of the dead badly done?" Answers on a plawn, please.

JEREMY KINGSTON

PROMS: Excellence old and new

Finnish storming

THERE was a brand new BBC commission; there was Elgar's Cello Concerto with Truls Mork (which ensured every seat was sold); and there was a fashionable piece of Nielsen. But the real wonder of Sunday night's Prom was Beethoven's Fifth.

This was a performance to relish in the instant, and to ponder long and hard; and it was given by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra with Osmo Vänskä making his first appearance as their new chief conductor. It was an auspicious one. Vänskä is known for his Sibelius discoveries in his work as music director of Finland's Lahni Philharmonic. On the evidence of this Prom, Scotland has quite something to look forward to.

This Fifth was a renewal, almost a reinvention, of the work. Vänskä ensured that every note of the first movement sprang light and lithe into shapely phrasing, that legato was lightly suspended, that *brío* never degenerated into bombast.

His concern in the slow movement seemed to be to find the pulse within the pulse: to activate the internal rhythm of its variations. By drawing back the strings, a bassoon solo would reveal a new harmonic balance: the orchestra's excellent woodwinds were particularly favoured in this movement. The scherzo,

BBCSSO/Vänskä
Albert Hall/Radio 3

vividly articulated, became a sort of musical gym, training the orchestra for a taut and thrilling run to the finishing post.

Beethoven was a fitting complement to the evening's world premiere by 36-year-old Hamburg-born Detlev Glanert: in the composer's words, this was to be a "symphony about old symphonies". This, his Third Symphony, was not a synthetic collage, *à la* Schnittke, nor was it a nostalgic tribute. In fact, despite their motific inter-reference, the five movements seemed more like parts of a suite, each one a distinct dramatic scene in itself, given headings such as *Landscape at Dunsinane* and *Sails and Horizons*.

This was a confidently and cunningly crafted tonal work, distinctive of voice, while paying oblique tribute to Mahler and to Glanert's great mentor, Hans Werner Henze. And fleetingly, some might detect, to Elgar as well, whose Cello Concerto was given such a powerful and minutely subtle performance by Mork in an Albert Hall loud with coughing, creaking and latecomers.

HILARY FINCH

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POP

Despite the rain, and a poor show by the Stone Roses, there were a few treasures at the Reading Festival



CHOICE 1

Anita Dobson stars as *Time and the Room* opens in Edinburgh



CHOICE 2

Andrew Davis conducts Ives and Kurtág with the BBC Symphony



CHOICE 3

Birmingham hosts Michael Flatley's Celtic spectacular, *Lord of the Dance*

Roses now out of season

POP: A sorrowful Stephen Dalton is on hand at the Reading Festival to witness a once-great band become an ugly caricature of itself

The rain poured down in monsoon torrents. The local council imposed strict noise limits, muting most of the main acts. The biggest band on the bill was virtually guaranteed to make a fool of itself, providing it deigned to turn up at all. But even so, this year's Reading Festival offered plenty of treasures for those prepared to seek them out.

Traditionally something of a works outing for the London music industry, the Reading ethos is generally more businesslike than its open-air rivals, and less musically diverse. This year's three-day bash was never going to boast a vintage line-up because, despite Glastonbury's sabbatical, the festival calendar has never been more crowded.

Rounding off the season, Reading was left to mop up a glut of mid-level talents and leftover acts. Indeed, it was mainly the middle-range artists who disappointed. The sun-dappled retro-pop of Dodgy, for instance, sounded flaccid and lifeless beneath

Even experimental Seattle rockers Tortoise entranced a sizeable crowd with their intriguing cocktails of poly-rhythmic percussion and freem jazz. With Reading being historically a rock-heavy event, dance music was sparsely represented. Perhaps this explained the thick scum of revellers gathered around a customised armoured car which was blasting out relentless techno beats all weekend long. Essentially a promotional gimmick for the Welsh guitar band Super Furry Animals, this bizarre installation soon took on a life of its own and proved one of the festival's most consistent, if unlikely, attractions.

But there were two Reading headlines who are at least partly allied with dance culture: The Prodigy and Black Grape. Having spent most of the summer playing open-air events all over Europe, both managed to overcome festival fatigue. The latter, especially, seemed re-energised by the return of dancer

band mascot Bez, who has been out of action for several months because of wrangling with his record label. They can be woefully sloppy at times, but Black Grape's bouncy disco-rock grooves capped Saturday's bill in style. Nevertheless, fellow Mancunians the Stone Roses were always going to be Reading's main event, for morbid curiosity value if nothing else. Two hours before the troubled rock titans arrived to close festivities on Sunday night, Belfast's powerpop trio Ash gave a pedestrian performance which played up their rougher, heavier side, at the expense of their warm, feline melodies. Their set was mainly notable for the accidental ignition of backstage fireworks reserved for the Roses themselves: a telling symbol of the younger generation stealing the thunder from their over-hyped elders.

Not that anybody was realistically expecting musical pyrotechnics from the Stone Roses. But few could have predicted the dismal depths they had plumbed in clinging to their mythic reputation. Taking five years to deliver a lacklustre second album was their first big mistake, and failing to play at last year's Glastonbury was another, but their appalling efforts at Reading marked a new nadir, as a



Where'd the magic go, tambourine man? Ian Brown, lead singer of the Stone Roses

group who once seemed like an untouchable deity crashed to earth with a tuneless clang. Fielding just two original members since the recent departure of the guitarist and main songwriter John Squire, the Roses were clearly hoping to bounce back from crisis much like Suede did after their own guitar wizard, Bernard Butler, jumped ship two years ago. But the crucial difference here is that Suede still retained one creative linchpin in Brett Anderson, while Squire effectively carried the Stone Roses alone. His fluid, subtle, beautiful

playing gave the group an elegant grandeur which workmanlike new recruit Aziz Ibrahim could not dream of replicating. But even more jarring than Ibrahim's leaden fumbling were singer Ian Brown's laughably flat vocals. Even in the band's faded heyday he was often off-key, but at least then his voice had an alluring choirboy freshness. At Reading he merely sounded like a wounded out pleading to be put out of its misery.

This spectacle seemed even more pitiful when the burnt-

out husks of much-loved compositions such as *I Wanna Be Adored* and *Waterfall* were ritually mauled. These teasing archaeological fragments indicate what the Roses might have been with less arrogance and more focus, an Oasis-sized phenomenon with noble intelligence to match their majestic tunes.

But it was clearly not to be. The Roses have become a lumbering, graceless, unwittingly comic tribute band to their younger selves. The chances of them surviving this debacle seem slender.

‘This year's bash was never going to boast a vintage line-up’

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5045/444 4444. *FERRY CROSS*. "THE MESSY WAS ON

Advice for incoming ministers

Labour needs a strong Civil Service, says Peter Riddell

If Labour is to succeed in government, it needs to overcome its longstanding suspicion of the Civil Service. Despite all the briefings by retired officials, the only knowledge most Labour front-benchers have of Whitehall is through watching *Yes, Prime Minister* (now being shown again on BBC1) and reading the Benn, Castle and Crossman diaries. These all perpetuate the myth of manipulative civil servants frustrating idealistic ministers — what Barbara Castle called “administrative supremacy”. If there was any truth in this in the 1960s, there is none now. Far from having too much power, the Civil Service has too little.

Just before the holidays, one minister with long experience of Whitehall remarked to me that the real risk for a Labour government was not that the Civil Service would be obstructive on the Benn-Crossman model, but that it would too readily allow inexperienced ministers to blunder. Senior civil servants would be so keen to please their new masters that they would not adequately question how Labour's plans would work in practice.

Many in Whitehall are eager for a change of government. That does not mean they are disloyal to current ministers, nor do they believe that a Blair government would do much better. Rather, they think the Tories have run out of steam and that after so long, a change is desirable for the health of parliamentary democracy. Senior civil servants are keen to get to know potential Labour ministers, to educate them in the realities of office.

Yet the minister's comment about Whitehall's attitude to Labour is implicitly a criticism of how the Tories have undermined the Civil Service as a source of independent policy analysis and advice. This is not because of any overt politicisation of the senior Civil Service. The ethos of neutrality survives, though it is often strained by partisan ministers. The combination of a conviction approach, longevity in office and the managerial revolution in the running of central government has shifted the balance between ministers and civil servants. The implications are brought out in a timely new book, *The State Under Stress*, by Sir Christopher Foster (the veteran policy adviser to governments of both parties) and Francis Plowden.

The authors welcome many of the changes since 1979 — the end of the previous cosy links with corporatist producer interests, privatisation, and the creation of new executive agencies to run large swathes of administration — but they argue that there have been big costs, as well as gains. Like Peter Hennessy, they believe in the traditional virtues of the Civil Service as a steady hand on ministers, offering advice on the facts and the law. This has been undermined, even since Margaret Thatcher's crusade achieved many of its aims, ministers

“have continued to dominate, tending to treat civil servants as implementers of their policies rather than, as in the old way, partners; and as a result failing to consult widely before legislation”.

The outcome has been White Papers and statutes of poor quality which subsequently have to be revised. The Thatcher battering ram discouraged the expression of doubts, and now, after more than 17 years, the Civil Service has adapted to the Tories' way of thinking. Not only are ministers reluctant to consider alternatives, but no civil servant under the age of 40 has much memory of Labour in office.

Some Thatcherites will dismiss Foster and Plowden as apologists for the discredited old consensus-seeking Establishment. They tend to look down on “political” solutions and to underestimate, while acknowledging the narrowness of the traditional “departmental” view. They also fail to take sufficient account of the revival of collective decision-making and of pre-legislative consultation under John Major. Yet they have a point: good government matters as well as ideology. There is a distinction between destruction and creation.

As Sir Frank Cooper, the former Defence Permanent Secretary, remarked in typically vivid terms, “conviction politics is fine for slaughtering sacred cows, but no good for contriving new policies from the off”. Echoing the

High Tory warnings of Douglas Hurd, Foster and Plowden argue that “perpetual revolution has tended to turn what was at first a decisive Government, knowing its own mind, into a Government endlessly seeking and implementing new and hastily thought-up initiatives”.

This is not an argument merely for managing the status quo, though competence in government is an undervalued virtue, because of the present over-emphasis on presentation. What is needed is workable reform, ideas should be tested and challenged. Foster and Plowden argue for a reduction in the present overload on ministers, not least through more decentralisation, for a revival of the Civil Service's traditional role of policy evaluation, and for more consultation, involving more outsiders as well as Parliament.

Labour needs a stronger Civil Service. In many areas, its policies are insufficiently thought out. Recent reports from the Constitution Unit, in effect a Civil Service policy unit in exile, have exposed some of the holes in Labour's plans for devolution and reforming the Lords. Party spokesmen are already talking of changing Commons procedures to allow more Bills to be pushed through quickly. But quantity could be the enemy of quality. Labour needs not a supine Civil Service, but a self-confident one, to advise and to warn.

The State Under Stress is published by Open University Press, £15.99.



“I'M HAVING IT DONE ON THE VHS...” *Ant Brookes*

Help before they offend

Society's attitude to child abuse has become hysterical. But we should not group all cases together

You will have heard some grim stories lately about child sex abuse. This week there will be more. With horrendous symmetry, only days after the unmasking of Marc Dutroux, his dungeons and his hateful international contacts, this week in Stockholm sees the first worldwide conference on the sexual exploitation of children. Meanwhile Barnardo's tells us unpalatable truths about British child prostitution, and pressure groups remind us that Asian nine-year-olds are being raped because children are deemed less likely to give rich Western clients Aids.

Day by day our rage and preoccupation with the subject rises. Crusading papers name the men who let child porn be transmitted on the Internet. One day we get an allegation that teachers at leading schools belong to a paedophile ring; the next a court report about a secure psychiatric unit in Oxfordshire which let a convicted violent paedophile travel alone to therapy — whereupon he lured a three-year-old girl into an alleyway. Daily reminders of these things, we think back shudderingly to Thomas Hamilton's obsession with half-dressed boys, to the murders of Sophie Hook and Daniel Handley. We feel raw, sharp fear over the children on that Norfolk beach, hoping that they didn't suffer something even worse than drowning. We grow neurotically over-protective of our own children. We are filled with disgust and hatred: the crime is so unspeakable, the motive so repellently selfish that contemplation of it threatens to overwhelm all reason.

Such fury is healthy, but it is not a good master. In Stockholm, a more doggedly unemotional frame of mind will be more useful. There are definite things to be done: pursuing pornographers, electronic or otherwise, persuading more countries to follow Britain's new policy of prosecuting its citizens at home for exploiting children abroad. We need to share expertise on punishment, prevention and therapy, and to reach an international commercial consensus that it is unacceptable to peddle borderline sexual images of children (or waif-like models) in advertising. We need a worldwide change of attitude so that children led into prostitution are not — as they still are, even in Britain — more severely dealt with than their clients.

Fine, good luck. God speed to the

police who hunt down the violent, and those social workers and doctors who without hysteria or injustice manage to identify less violent seductions. These things are crimes: let us fight them.

But there is something else, more difficult to discuss. Sexual violence against children is so horrifying, so heavily reported that we lose our sense of proportion. Because of the horrors, and because most of us are not remotely tempted by this particular sin, it repels us with unique force. The slightest manifestation makes the extremes rise up before us, and we react with the same blind fury.

Whereas once it was possible for adults — and certainly for our worldly-wise children — to giggle about creepy biology masters or Reverend Mothers who left their hand on your shoulder just that bit too long, we are now too aware of the far shores of perversion to stay calm about the fleeting fondle, the “inappropriate” contact. “One thing leads to another,” we cry. It is as if we felt the same shock at an armed bank robbery and a pathetic one-off shoplifter.

There are two unfortunate effects of this. One is the fear that haunts all male teachers: that they might entirely innocently find themselves accused of sexual motivation in some casual physical contact with a child, and see their careers and reputations ruined. Male primary school teachers are becoming an endangered species largely for this reason: and that is a shame for the next generation, which (especially with the shortage of fathers at home) badly needs male role models other than Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The other effect is that any man who actually does start feeling sexual stirrings towards children knows himself to be an outcast, an object of universal disgust. Short of the Catholic confessional, there is nobody to whom he can turn who will not be

revolted and feel it his duty to tell the world the secret. If — as is quite likely — a genuine vocation and skill has led this man to work with children, the admission will end his career, blight his life and deny his talent. And we are not, remember, talking about a man who has done anything: not even encouraged a fantasy in himself, let alone tried to share it or feed it off the Internet. We are talking about a man who merely finds himself tempted. He may have long suppressed these feelings, and now finds them less controllable in mid-life, or in some personal or professional crisis. He may be essentially a good man.

But in his torment of temptation, he has nowhere to turn. Most of us, if confronted by ordinary anti-social urges, can draw strength from friends, doctors, Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous or whatever. The man fighting paedophile fantasies, tempted to paedophile acts, cannot.

A year or two back, moved by the story of a man who attempted suicide in prison after molesting a small child, I asked every available expert and organisation the simple question: “Where can a man go for help if he is afraid he might sexually molest a child?” There was only one clinic, in London, which said it might possibly see such a man. Nor are there self-help groups: the only organisations for paedophiles are those which egg them on, feeding the only-too-familiar system of self-deception, assuring them they are right and that children like it.

My hypothetical man — the one who has a leaning, is horrified by it and intensely lonely because of it — needs another kind of human contact if he and the children are to be saved. Society — ideally in the person of others who have suffered the same way and won — should have some way of saying to him, “We know these feelings exist. They are your

misfortune, but they do not in themselves make you a criminal. You have already taken the first step towards defeating them, by admitting that they are wrong. For the rest of your life, you have to control them, as we all do our darker side. But your job is harder than most people's. We wish you luck. We will help all we can.”

At the moment, you have to be an offender already before you have the slightest chance of therapy, and even then there is woefully little of it. Yet therapy for sex offenders, as pioneered by Ray Wyre and others, does have a reasonable record of containing subsequent behaviour; and this in men who have already ruined their lives and prospects. So would there not be profit in giving — without stigma — some avenue of help to the poor devils who are not yet offenders, and who have far more to lose?

I am not entirely naïve. I know that there will always be individuals who would rather hide their temptation, nurse and feed it and at last indulge it. In even the most “normal” orientation there are some who seduce and betray, buy and sell, rape and molest. To contain their urges society has patterns of courtship, marriage, fidelity and forgiveness. The patterns may be a bit frayed right now, but they are there.

But for the lonely, unsupported, so far guiltless paedophile — or for the mildly guilty, the occasional groping — nothing waits but contempt and horrified rejection. Last month one of my children's former teachers, an excellent and cheerful bachelor in his thirties, sporty, churchgoing and pleasantly eccentric, was convicted of a series of offences. None amounted to more than a fleeting caress, mostly unnoticed by the boys at the time. But he had kept a diary which revealed that he did indeed gain pleasure from these contacts.

Shades of every past horror, up to and including Dunblane, arose around this kindly and pacific man. The judge spoke ringingly of “disgusting and terrible crimes”, and pronounced sentence of three years with no talk of pity or cure.

I do not presume to quarrel with the verdict or sentence, as I was not in court. But I do know the man, and wonder every day whether things might have been different if we had been a mature enough society to let his condition, years ago, speak its name and ask for help.

Cut taxes for more revenue

Warwick Lightfoot has seen the future — and it's flat

At the heart of supply-side economics is the belief that individuals respond to incentives. By choosing Jack Kemp as his running-mate and standing on a tax-cutting platform Bob Dole has shown he understands this, and given his presidential campaign the kiss of life.

Supply-siders argue that high marginal tax rates destroy enterprise, effort and initiative. In Britain, the only argument is whether higher rate tax should be raised or whether top earners should pay a special surcharge. Labour is coy about its intentions, but there is little doubt about what it would like to do given half a chance. The Liberal Democrats not only favour raising the basic rate of tax, but advocate an additional top rate on those earning more than £100,000 a year. Yet the results of radical tax reform in Britain and America suggest that there is little revenue to be gained from increases in top marginal tax rates and that a lot of economic damage can be done.

In Britain, the top rate of tax has fallen from 83 per cent to 40 per cent, but the proportion of total income tax collected from the top 10 per cent of income tax payers has risen. In 1978-79 the top 10 per cent contributed 35 per cent of total income tax collected. Today they account for 44 per cent of the revenue raised from income tax.

There have been three episodes of tax-cutting in America this century. In the 1920s, the top rate of income tax was reduced from 73 per cent to 25 per cent. Overall tax receipts rose by 2.9 per cent, the tax paid by people with incomes over \$100,000 rose by 86.3 per cent and the share of income tax paid by them increased from 28.1 per cent to 50.9 per cent. In 1964 President Kennedy's tax reform took effect, reducing the top rate of income tax by 23 per cent. Between 1963 and 1965 revenue from the top 5 per cent of taxpayers rose by 7.7 per cent and the share of tax paid by them rose from 35.6 per cent to 38.5 per cent.

American marginal tax rates were cut from 70 to 50 per cent in 1981, and again to 28 per cent in 1986. The share of income tax paid by the top 2 per cent of taxpayers rose from 26 per cent to 34 per cent.

The lesson of these tax cutting episodes is clear, yet frequently overlooked. A tax system does not have to have a structure of sharply rising rates of income tax to ensure a reasonable degree of progression. As Sir Roger Douglas asked the New Zealand Parliament when presenting Labour's radical tax-cutting budget in 1988: “Do you want a tax system that looks progressive, or one that actually is progressive in its results?”

High marginal tax rates damage incentives. They deter people from working and they reduce risk-taking and enterprise. Economists usually assess this by looking at the number of hours people work in the first or second year after a change in tax rates. The evidence is mixed and inconclusive. Yet what is plain is that the number of hours worked by people is highly sensitive to net take-home pay, so high marginal tax rates have the effect of reducing the participation of women in the labour market.

The long-term effects of tax rates have not been so extensively studied, because estimating intensity of work effort and the factors influenced by taxes in the medium term is not as easy as looking at the number of hours people work. Employees may not be able to alter the hours they work in the short term, but in the long term individuals can significantly change their behaviour. Marginal tax rates influence decisions about career choice, the acquisition of skills and training and decisions on location. They have, therefore, a powerful influence on the key decisions that determine an individual's earning power. Studies of President Reagan's tax cuts in America show that high marginal tax rates not only harm the economy in the manner predicted by supply-side analysis, and fail to yield appreciable revenue additions, but, fail to soak the rich.

In 1993, President Clinton raised the top rate of tax from 31 per cent to 39.6 per cent. The first studies of the effect of this tax increase suggest that it was disappointing as a revenue raiser, and that it provoked a swift behavioural response by taxpayers, who reduced their taxable incomes. It raised only one third of the revenue that the Administration forecast, yielding an additional \$6 billion, but the distortions to behaviour provoked by it depressed real incomes by \$25 billion.

The lessons that should be drawn from tax history are that the tax base is highly responsive to changes in the structure of incentives. There is a particularly strong response from high income earners, and that relatively small changes in behaviour can eliminate most or all of the potential additional tax revenue. Even where additional revenue can be raised, the damaging consequences of lost economic activity in the private sector swamp any benefits from using the funds in the public sector. High marginal tax rates damage training and make it more difficult for women to work. High marginal tax rates harm the economy.

The author was a Treasury special adviser, 1989-92, and works for the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Model lady

BARONESS THATCHER is to be immortalised in a full-length bronze sculpture for the first time. She has visited the Surrey studio of Philip Jackson and undertaken at least one sitting for the piece, which will depict her in Garter robes, probably at one-and-a-half times life-size.

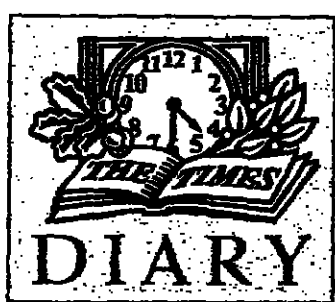
Jackson, who recently unveiled

his statue of Sir Matt Busby at Old Trafford, appears to have been Thatcher's personal choice. She loves his statue of “The Yomper”, depicting a Marine marching in the Falklands. When she unveiled it in 1992, she was moved to make a philosophical statement: “Great causes that stir men's souls are not decided by statistics but by what I call the British factor.”

Mr Jackson describes the Baroness as “a giant of the 20th century. I hope to capture not only her statesman-like bearing and assurance but also her dynamism.” I have yet to discover who has commissioned the work, but there have been suggestions that it was Lady Thatcher herself, or her foundation. The Conservative Party said yesterday that it knew nothing of the plan.

One word of warning, however. When last a full-length statue of her went on exhibition — an anti-nuclear “statement” entitled *Old Dragon with Trident*, made of old farming tools — it was toppled by a drunk.

White House staff took the precaution of forwarding a “healthy” menu to chefs aboard



the train that Bill Clinton took to Chicago for his Democratic convention. They duly ignored it — and on the first night produced fattening Alfredo followed by roast chicken, prime rib, and then a presidential favourite: banana pudding.

Tall story

SPOTTED at the weekend in the grounds of Lord Bath's Longleat safari park in Wiltshire were 60 members of the Tall Persons Club of Great Britain. Led by Chris Greener, the country's tallest man at 7ft 6in, they were stretching their legs hard by the giraffe enclosure.

It was a welcome excursion for Greener, who had been suffering at the Swallow Hotel close by, where the lofty individuals had gathered for a conference. Al-

though the hotel had brought in a special bed for him, he was still forced to sleep diagonally, for the bed was a mere 7ft long.

Posting

SIR EDWARD HEATH has taken on the awesome task of consultant to Washington's top hostess, Katharine Graham, the septuagenarian owner of *The Washington Post*. She has asked him to check her memoirs for inaccuracies with regard to European affairs.

Kay Graham last year hosted a

dinner for her friend the Princess of Wales, after which one unkind guest remarked of Diana that, nice though she was, he wasn't convinced that the “elevator went all the way upstairs”. She is one of the most powerful women in the States. Heath is revelling in his task. Lady Thatcher might think she could do a better job.

Barbour class

FRIGHTFUL NEWS for protesters encamped at the site of the Newbury bypass. They have lost one of their stalwarts. Lady Barber, 52, who made headlines when she left off marmalade-making to join in, has ended her protest.

This fight has been lost, she says. “Now that the trees have been cut down, I can't see the point of protesting any more.” Other blue-bloods are putting on a brave face, but the disappointment is palpable. “I'm sure she will go on helping to stop the road,” says the Marchioness of Worcester.

Eau dear

THIS YEAR'S winner of the Perrier Award for Comedy at the Edinburgh Festival, Dylan Moran, has been described by the competition's judges as “embarrassingly



Lady Barber: lost battle

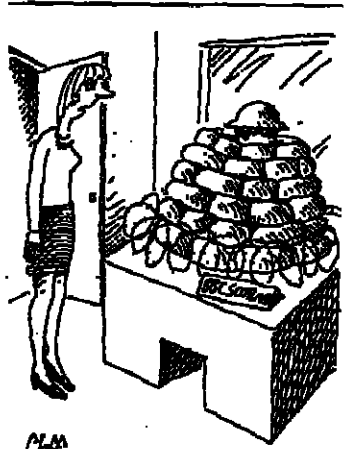
talented” and a “master of irrelevant nonsense”.

Moran's mastery was none too evident at the presentation ceremony. He slurred his way through an unintelligible acceptance speech before stumbling off to celebrate. “The trouble was that he hadn't expected to win at all, and was one-over-the-odds when he heard about it,” says one source. “And afterwards, he went on for much more.” By all accounts, he endured the mother of all hangovers the next day, just as the press latched on to him for interviews.

P.H.S



Full Garter garb



“Kate Adie wants a word about your criticisms”

OBITUARIES

Les Bouts, motor racing driver, died on August 15 aged 93. He was born on June 24, 1903.

In the high noon of racing at Brooklands in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Les Bouts was a familiar figure at the Weybridge track, with his flamboyant driving. On the famous banked cypress track, which always tempted drivers to attempt the very highest of speeds, he pushed his cars to the limits.

It was always a dangerous business, with the drivers bunched about as fearfully in their cockpits on the unforgiving rough surface. Like many other drivers, Bouts often found it difficult to hold a racing line low on the banking, and was several times disqualified for balking other cars, especially when they were being driven by more celebrated names than his.

In his early days he raced an elderly 4.9-litre Indianapolis Sunbeam, never an easy car to drive, but one in which he nevertheless scored many successes after some coaching from the experienced Kaye Don. Later, in a 1924 2-litre Sunbeam, he went on to even greater heights, and eventually gained the much-coveted 120mph badge by lapping Brooklands at 122.07 mph, an exceptional speed for those times.

Unlike many of the princes of the racing track who in those days tended to be from fashionable or even aristocratic backgrounds, Bouts's roots were in the transport business. Before taking up racing he had developed Bouts Brothers into a flourishing concern, having started it with ex-First World War surplus lorries. Another part of the company operated luxury coach services from the heart of London to Essex seaside resorts.

After the transport business was bought out Bouts concentrated after the Second World War on his garage, Bouts Motors, with many agencies, of which the most prominent was for Alfa Romeo cars, later changing to a Citroën dealership.

Besides his Brooklands exploits, Bouts also took his 2-litre supercharged Sunbeam to Southport where he raced it on the sands in the classic races which were held there in those days. On one occasion, during the journey north, the Chevrolet lorry carrying the car — an ancient affair like the rolling stock it was transporting — broke down.

But in those carefree days it was no problem to unload the racer from the back of the truck, the journey being completed with the racing car towing the stricken vehicle. On the perilously ridged beach, again an uncompromising surface which administered a non-

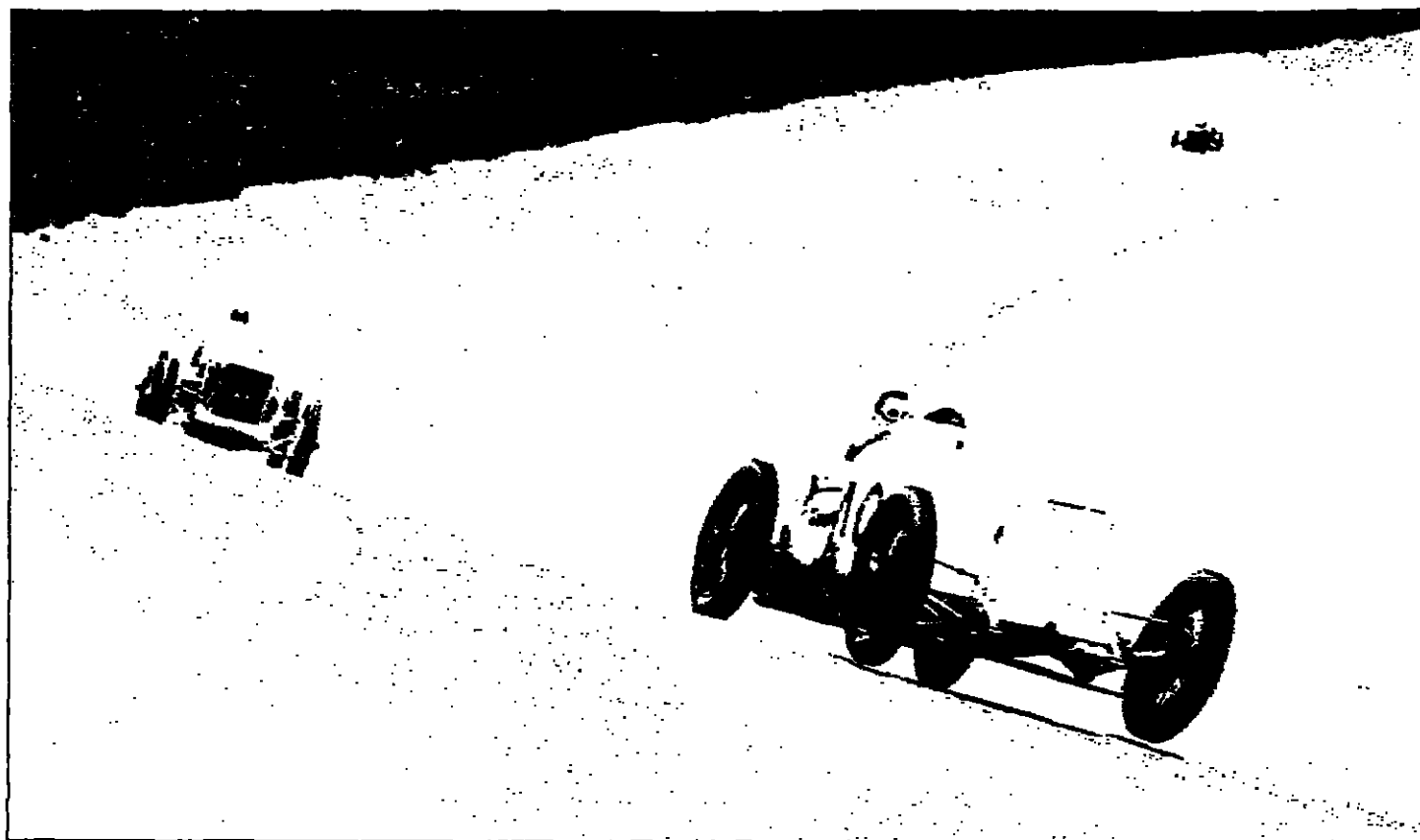
stop pummelling to the driver's body, Bouts's best place was third in one of Southport's 100-mile races.

Finally, Bouts acquired the famous Leyland Thomas No 1 once raced by Parry Thomas, but rebodied. This lapped Brooklands at over 114mph in his hands to give him further awards. In his favourite Sunbeams, Bouts took seven first places — including a dead-heat — six second places and three third places at Brooklands. Bouts always raced bare-headed at the Weybridge track, with his mechanic Jack Warnes beside him. It seemed all very casual and carefree in those days but was nevertheless highly dangerous.

In the course of running his transport business, Bouts owned some impressive lorries and motor coaches, including one very large chain-drive articulated Scammell truck of which he was very proud. On the road, Bouts also favoured good, fast cars and in later times drove the most modern of Alfa Romeos, up to the Alfa 6 with multiple carburetors and an automatic gearbox. In his more restful moments he worked on his garden, of which he was justifiably proud, at his house close to his Wolverhampton garage.

He is survived by his second wife and by the son and two daughters of his first marriage.

LES BOUTS



Bouts, bareheaded, leading the field in the 2-litre Sunbeam with his mechanic Jack Warnes at Brooklands in 1929

COMMANDER PETER WINTER

Commander Peter Winter, DSC, wartime Fleet Air Arm observer, died in Eastbourne on August 7 aged 78. He was born on September 3, 1917.

AS A navigator and observer in the notoriously slow Fleet Air Arm biplane, the Swordfish, fondly known as the "Stringbag", Peter Winter played a role in several historic moments of the Second World War, notably in the Royal Navy's victory over the Italian fleet off Cape Matapan.

Early in the war, with 823 Squadron, FAA, he took part in attacks on the German battleship *Scharnhorst* and the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen* in Norwegian waters, before being transferred to the Middle East. After operations against Italian forces in the Adriatic, he and his pilot, Lieutenant "Tiffy" Torrens-Spence, flew out from Maleme airfield, in Crete, in the only remaining serviceable Swordfish of 815 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm, towards the Italian fleet which was then approaching Cape Matapan.

At sunset they were joined by torpedo bombers which had been launched from the carrier *Formidable*, and together they bore down on the concentrated force of enemy warships, which included the battleship *Vittorio Veneto*, the cruisers *Zara*, *Fiume* and *Pola*, and a number of destroyers. The flak barrage

hurled skywards by this mass of ships was so dense that the attacking aircraft could scarcely see their targets for shellbursts, and it was a miracle that none was shot down.

However, although they could not at the time know it, Winter and Torrens-Spence had scored one torpedo hit on the cruiser *Pola*, which

stopped her dead in the water. This blow was to have decisive results on the course of the battle. The Italian Commander-in-Chief, not realising that the main British surface force was so close to him, ordered the cruisers *Zara* and *Fiume* and a division of destroyers to attend the stricken ship. As a result the British battleships and their accompanying de-

stroyers were able to close in and sink not only *Pola* but the other two heavy cruisers as well. Two Italian destroyers were also accounted for.

The Fleet Air Arm's contribution had, therefore, been of crucial importance and Winter was gazetted DSC on December 2, 1941.

In 1942 Winter unexpectedly heard from a Capitaine de Vaisseau Yves le Goff, who revealed that he had been the officer on board the *Guépard* who had fished him out of the sea. He asked Winter to "throw yourself more than fifty years backwards to that day in June, 1941, when after having a biters we had the lunch and then, in the afternoon, we talked in a cordial atmosphere."

The sequel was that in the spring of 1993, in Neuilly sur Seine, Winter and his wife, Beverley, enjoyed a peaceful reception by his former adversary and they recalled their first meeting in the waters of the Mediterranean, over champagne and an excellent lunch — with no hard feelings.

In 1994 the Winters repaid the conciliatory gesture with good Sussex hospitality.

Winter was the son of an

Oswestry lawyer, educated at Blundell's School, and enrolled in the Fleet Air Arm, RNVR, in May 1939. After his release from prison in Italy, he retrained as a naval signals officer and served in East Africa and Ceylon. Shortly after VE-Day, he was offered and accepted a Royal Navy commission, and married in June, 1945. Three days after the wedding ceremony he was ordered out to the Far East, and was serving in HMS *Formidable* off the coast of Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

He served on until his retirement in 1967. His subsequent career was as an administrative officer for the diocese of Chichester, with responsibility for the fabric of nearly 400 vicarages. Latterly, he lived the life of a gentle Sussex countryman, gardening, birdwatching, playing in a golf club at nearby Seaford, but still fighting battles — for the National Trust and for the preservation of the countryside, for his village church, and for the memory of comrades through the Royal British Legion. Blessed with a sense of humour, a kind nature and real humility, he was always a man who had no difficulty in distinguishing right from wrong.

He is survived by his wife, Beverley, a son in Australia, a daughter in South Africa, and a second daughter in Suffolk.

THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL
(FROM OUR OWN REPORTER)
The bells of old St. Peter's rang merrily this morning as the crowd made its way to the Music-hall to hear the new oratorio of the author of *St. Paul*...
to-day they were damped up; there was no road for foot passengers; the whole length of New-street, from the Hen and Chickens to the Music-hall, was lined on each side with a dense mass of human beings, eager to behold the visitors as they made their way to the building. The tops of the houses, and every window, from garret to ground-floor, were covered and crowded with spectators. The first view of the hall, as we entered the great gallery to find what standing-place we could — for the London press was not accommodated with secured places — was altogether dazzling. Every nook and corner was alive, not a vacant spot was to be seen. The orchestra was quite filled with the executives, and the immense organ, with its thirty-two-foot pipes, looking like gigantic rolls of oil-cloth, rose up from behind till its head touched the roof, like some vast animal of mysterious form. When Mendelssohn, the master spirit that was to direct this multitude, stepped into the conduc-

BETTY READ

Betty Read, MBE, Head Lady Almoner at St Thomas' Hospital, 1947-70, died on August 15 aged 86. She was born on May 29, 1910.

"NOW you don't have to collect money from patients. Miss Read, I don't see what you have to do," the clerk of the hospital of St Thomas' Hospital declared to Betty Read in 1947. Betty Read was at that time the head lady almoner of St Thomas' Hospital, charged with estimating the income of patients to assess how much they should have to pay towards their treatment. But, with the passing of the National Health Service Act, her job had come to seem redundant. However, Betty Read, a brisk bird-like woman with an acute intelligence, was ready with a reply. "Now that we don't have to collect money, perhaps we can concentrate on the job we were trained to do — to appreciate the needs of patients."

Betty Read went on to play an important role in the evolution of almoners into medical social workers. She combined an alertness of outlook with an astute understanding which enabled her to see the positive aspects of her clients, without losing sight of what was negative and most needed help and improvement.

But perhaps it was as a facilitator of the hospice movement that she found her most important role. Using the professional and City contacts which she had established as an almoner, she was able to help Cicely Saunders to get her new St Christopher's Hospice off the ground by guiding funds in its direction. She was appointed MBE in 1959.

Agnes Beatrice Read was born in south London and was educated at Streatham High School and, for a year, at the London School of Economics. From there she went on, after further training, to work as an almoner at the Westminster Hospital and as a tutor at the Institute of Almoners where, at the end of the war, she ran one-year emergency courses. She even managed to persuade the somewhat conservative institute to admit men into a profession which had been considered as one exclusively for "ladies".

Shortly after the war she went to America to study the type of casework which was being done there. This case-work based social work on a close study of the personal histories and circumstances of individuals and their families.

With this experience under her belt, in 1947 she was appointed head lady almoner at St Thomas' Hospital, a post which she was to occupy until her retirement in 1970. She took office when the National Health Service Act of 1946 changed the function for which her department had been created in 1909. St Thomas' was at the time faced with radical repair after bomb damage and was on the verge of development from a single close-knit unit to an amalgam of several hospitals. As a manager she quietly led the reorganisation of her department to meet the changing times, including the steady expansion of social work into the community.

Betty Read also played a decisive part in the wider field of her profession. She was a member of the council of the Institute of Almoners, which later became part of the British Association of Social Workers. This move resulted in the erasure of specialist medical, psychiatric and child-welfare workers in favour of social workers with a general training. With customary candour, Betty Read later declared that she considered this to have been a mistake.

At St Thomas' Hospital, a member of Betty Read's staff was Cicely Saunders, the pioneer of the hospice movement. Read was a strong influence on Saunders and helped her to obtain funds to start her first hospice. She arranged for a

legacy left by a patient at St Thomas' to be made over to St Christopher's.

Through her almoner's work, Betty Read had made a wide variety of contacts, and she now worked to raise their awareness of the hospice movement. She coaxed such people as Walter Frideaux, clerk to the Goldsmiths Company and chairman of the City Parochial Foundation, and his brother Sir John Frideaux, chairman of the National Westminster Bank, to donate funds to the hospice movement. The grant which she obtained from the Drapers Company went towards the building of the nursing home wing in which she herself was to die.

Betty Read was also an ardent supporter of the Christian charity, L'Arche, which devotes itself to the care of mentally handicapped adults. She helped it to raise funds for a house for one of its communities based in Aberdeen.

In retirement Betty Read maintained an active interest in St Christopher's and worked there on a voluntary basis. She served on its council and arranged its library. Later, as arthritis and deteriorating eyesight took their toll, she found herself a patient of the hospice. A strong practising Christian all her life, she was a regular visitor to the hospice's chapel up until the day of her death.

Betty Read never married.



"no rain or dew should refresh the earth for years". The overture, a masterly piece of fugue writing, happily depicting the despair of the people, was magnificently played. The grand chorus, "Help, Lord", with its sublime, concluding harmonies, was capably sung; the semi-tonic counter-phrase was heartrending. Then a choral recitative carefully declaimed, gave way to the charming duet in a minor, "Zion spreadeth her hands for aid"; the masterly accompaniment of chorus, on the words "Lord, bow thine ear to our prayer", giving, by its novelty and completeness, an effect of two distinct yet harmonising choirs... The last note of *Elijah* was drowned in a long-continued and unanimous volley of plaudits, vociferous and deafening. It was as though enthusiasm, long checked, had suddenly burst its bonds, and filled the air with shouts of exultation. Mendelssohn, evidently overpowered, bowed his acknowledgments, and quickly descended from his position in the conductor's rostrum; but he was compelled to appear again, amidst renewed cheers and huzzas.

ON THIS DAY

August 27, 1846

In a long report the writer describes in detail every aria and chorus of this first performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Mr. Lockey sang "If with all your hearts" so well that at the request of the festival president it was repeated.

tor's rostrum, and gave one rapid glance at the brilliant company who had come to listen to his favourite work — for *Elijah* is the child of his adoption, the composition he prefers to all he has written — the forms of etiquette were unanimously laid aside, and one loud and universal cheer acknowledged the presence of the greatest composer of the age. But Mendelssohn, who seems to hold applause in small account, after a brief salutation, waived his *baton* to begin. Herr Staudigl, accompanied by the low, mysterious tones of the oboes and bassoons, delivered, in a voice of thunder, the awful prediction of the prophet *Elijah*, that

BOOK OFFER

At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in *Weekend, At your service*, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere, the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditional views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

At a *Service Near You* makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches — The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

(Mr/Ms/Ms)
Address _____ Postcode _____
Please send me _____ copy/ies of 'At a Service Near You' @ £6.49 (normal price £7.99) each, including postage & packing, and book plate signed by Ruth Gledhill, I enclose cheque/postal order payable to The Times FT351.
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Church news

Appointments
The Rev David Lingwood, Team Rector, Blakenall Heath Team Ministry, to be Vicar, Rushall (Lichfield).
The Rev Eric Little, Rector, East and West Tilbury and Linford: to be also Rural Dean of Thurrock (Chelmsford).
The Rev John Mason: to be Canterbury Diocesan Rural Officer, and Priest-in-charge, Selling w Throley and Sheldwich w Badlesmere and Leaveland, same diocese.
Canon John Moore, General Director, Church Pastoral Aid Society: to be International Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Intercontinental Church Society.
The Rev Nduna Mpunzi, Priest-in-charge, Walsall St Mary: to be Resident Minister, Tettenhall Regis Team Ministry (Lichfield).
The Rev Michael Nelson, Rector, Hexham: to be also Acting Rural Dean of Hexham (Newcastle).
The Rev Terence Nottage, Diocesan Director of Ordinands designate (Exeter): to be also a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral.
Canon Trevor Park, Vicar, Naitand (Carlisle): to be Chaplain of St Edmund's, Oslo, Norway (Europe).
The Rev Peter Ramsden, Rector, Goroka (Papua New Guinea): to be Vicar, St Bartholomew, Longbenton (Newcastle).
The Rev Rosanne Roberts, Assistant Curate, St Philip and St James, Leckhampton: to be Rector, Ashchurch (Gloucester).
The Rev Kenneth Still, NSM, St John, Birkdale: to be Curate, St Nicholas, Sutton (Liverpool).
The Rev Nigel Simpson, Curate, St Anne, Heyhouses-on-Sea: to be Curate, The Ascension, Torrisholme, Morecambe (Blackburn).

BRIEFINGS

The DTI has set up the Sydney Olympics UK Business Task Force to help British firms make the most of business opportunities at the next Games in 2000. A representative is in Australia to feed back information on individual projects and tenders. For more information call Gary Soper on 0171 215 4875.

Advice to small businesses on using energy efficiently and thereby cutting costs is given in a ten-minute video accompanied by a workbook from NatWest Environmental Management. Details: 0171 726 1000.

A free booklet advising businesses what to look for when choosing a bank has been produced by Lloyds Bank and Kwik. *Business Banking* emphasises that clients should check that a bank's services are suitable. Lloyds points out that only 4 per cent of start-ups choose a bank because of the facilities it offers to small businesses. Details: 01895 632700.

Three hours of advice from an accountant is available free to companies selected by Lee Valley Business Innovation Centre as having the potential for substantial growth. Details from Kingston Smith, Devonshire House, 148 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JX.

Business Link Gloucestershire is holding a half-day seminar at Shurdington, Cheltenham, on September 30 on making the best use of market research information. The cost is £25, or £22.50 for members. Call: 01452 509560.

Kennels with long pedigree

Jessica Gorst-Williams visits a firm that has been making quality timber products for three generations

Making timber products that do not date has enabled the family business of A Neave & Sons in Peakirk, Cambridgeshire, to pass from father to son for 106 years. Arthur Neave, 66, the founder's grandson, now runs the firm with his son, James Arthur. Waiting in the wings is James's baby son, Richard Arthur.

The first Arthur Neave started as a blacksmith. As horses were overtaken by cars, blacksmithing gave way to undertaking. His grandson says: "They did everything, cutting down the trees and making the coffins."

Another speciality in the first half of this century was making large farm carts, including the wheels. The most enduring line, and the one for which the firm is best known, is dog kennels. The first of these sold in 1890 for £2. An 8ft by 8ft in the same double Fitzwilliam style costs £77 today, with a floor coming at an extra £74, and loose shutters to the front at £71. These days they custom-build dog kennels for most of the police dogs in the UK, for gun dogs on estates, and for the working dogs in the



Arthur Neave with Smudge, left, and Zeta outside the Fitzwilliam double kennel that costs £77

Royal Household. Mr Neave says: "Commissions tend to be one-off because the minimum we expect kennels to last is 25 years."

Other products include garden sheds, summerhouses, cat and poultry houses, dovetails, rabbit hutches, pig sties and loose boxes. Orders took off for kennels in 1900 when the firm placed its first advertisement in the *Cruft's Dog Show* catalogue. Since then A Neave & Sons has exhibited at

each of the Cruft's yearly shows and its stand has attracted interest from all over the world.

Mr Neave says: "There were never many problems until this last recession and that did hit us. We do a lot of business with long-standing estates and they were not spending money."

Before the recession there were 15 employees. Now, besides Mr Neave and his son, the staff includes five employees building

the kennels, a yard man, an apprentice and one person in administration. The worst year was 1993. Mr Neave says: "From July to Christmas there was hardly any business at all." Turnover had been £12,500 in 1993; in 1995 it was £185,694 and two years later £302,518.

The firm is not computerised. "We still do it with a ledger and typewriter," says Mr Neave.

Neave & Sons is on 01733 252398.

Survey puts targets of crime in the dock

By WIDGET FINN

THE total cost of crime to 1,400 small businesses in the Leicester area exceeds £3 million a year, with the average business suffering more than three incidents annually.

These are the findings from a major survey published by the Small Business and Crime Initiative, funded by National Westminster Bank. It covers two areas of Leicester and was launched last September by the Princess Royal.

The survey found that some businesses attract a disproportionate amount of crime, with high levels of repeat offences. Just 5 per cent of businesses accounted for 27 per cent of all incidents.

The initiative was set up to guard small businesses against the long-term effects of crime. It can have a serious impact on employment, reinvestment and even the survival of the business.

The idea was to get away from the tendency to offer a blanket solution regardless of the type of crime or how often it occurred.

The initiative will now focus on 40 of the high-risk businesses investigated to establish why they are so vulnerable to crime.

There are several main areas of crime that affect small businesses, according to John Burrows, a consultant at MHB, the crime risk management consultant, who is leading the initiative

team. Small retailers have problems with shoplifting, staff theft and fraud.

Retailers who sell high-value goods and businesses with large sums of money on the premises, such as sub-post offices, are susceptible to violent attacks, while burglary is six times more likely than on domestic premises.

Through identifying a small business's special problems, Mr Burrows says, the initiative will be able to recommend the most appropriate crime prevention measures.

A three-year programme conducted by Crime Concern, the charity, and MHB aims to analyse the risks to small businesses and provide solutions tailored to the firms.



"My doctor said I should stop taking my work home with me - so I stopped going home"

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

RETAIL Opportunity for sale of a successful business, established for 10 years, with a loyal customer base. The business is profitable and has a strong reputation in the local market. The owner is retiring and looking for a buyer who can continue the business. The business is for sale at a very attractive price. For more information, contact the owner on 01234 567890.

ESTABLISHED Retail business for sale. The business has been established for 15 years and has a strong reputation in the local market. The business is profitable and has a loyal customer base. The owner is retiring and looking for a buyer who can continue the business. The business is for sale at a very attractive price. For more information, contact the owner on 01234 567890.

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Item Sold	Retail Price	At Auction	Item Sold	Retail Price	At Auction
VW Golf GTI	£10,000	£1,000	30 Wedding Dresses	£2,000	£200
Mini Cooper	£8,000	£800	Porsche 911 sports car	£20,000	£2,000
Calsonic Car	£2,000	£200	As Office Desk	£500	£50
Power DES1000 Car CD	£300	£30	Disinfectant	£20	£2
Calsonic Fishing Tackle	£500	£50	IBM Computer Games	£200	£20
Photographic Equipment	£500	£50	Japan XDS Camcorder	£1,000	£100
Computer Design Systems	£500	£50	18-inch Mobile Phone	£200	£20
Backpacks	£100	£10	Flora	£200	£20
Golden Shimmer	£20	£2	Air Conditioning System	£1,000	£100
NEC Office Phone System	£200	£20	Luxury Office Chair	£500	£50
Care of Wines	£20	£2	Laptop Computers	£200	£20
SR Computers	£1,000	£100	Planned Oil Painting	£200	£20
Laser Printer	£200	£20	Designer Ceramic Cookery	£500	£50
Two Confusion Dolls	£200	£20	Zenith Working Machine	£200	£20
Toyota Forklift Truck	£17,000	£1,700	Three Pairs of Suits	£200	£20
Sony Camcorder	£200	£20	Flora (SR) System	£200	£20
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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

TENDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE FORMER ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL PREMISES ASHTON HALL, ST. PETER, BARBAD

Major backs grassroots power

John Major is backing radical plans to give party activists a vote for the first time in Tory leadership contests in return for new candidate selection procedures designed to increase the number of women MPs.

The Prime Minister has indicated his support for proposals for members to form a college making up 20 per cent of the vote. Tory MPs would account for the rest. **Page 1**

Surgeons paid £1,000 for video

Twenty-seven surgeons are expected to face investigation by the General Medical Council following claims that they were paid up to £1,000 each for agreeing to let film of their patients be used for a commercial video. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, has pledged to "pursue vigorously" any doctors who may have breached patient confidentiality. **Page 1**

Labour fund appeal

Labour has launched an American-style telephone fundraising campaign to try to raise £1 million from grassroots supporters for the general election. **Page 1**

Oasis crisis

Liam Gallagher, the lead singer with Oasis said that he had pulled out of the band's three-week tour of America. **Page 1**

Sex abuse powers

Britons who sexually abuse children abroad will face prosecution in UK courts under new powers expected to be put before the next session of Parliament. **Page 2**

Jail blunder meeting

Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, is expected to meet the Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to provide a personal account of the damaging "early release" blunder in jails in England and Wales. **Page 2**

Global warning

A craftsman who makes reproduction antique globes has received the ultimate accolade, with one of his models being mistaken for the real thing by a leading auction house. **Page 3**

Noughtie and Nice?

Semanticists and lexicographers are preparing for the millennium by wondering what to call the first decade: Noughties, or Under-tens the Os, Double Os, Double Zeros, or Zilches. **Page 4**

Equal opportunities on a chain gang

Joe Arpaio of Arizona's Maricopa County, who revels in the title "America's toughest sheriff", has combined vindictiveness with political correctness: female chain gangs. Calling himself an "equal opportunity incarcerator", Sheriff Arpaio said that, shackled at the ankles, women from his jails would start appearing on the streets of Phoenix next month. **Page 1**

Quicksand rescue

The man pulled from quicksand shortly before the incoming tide would have covered his head said that he believed he was going to die. **Page 6**

Soap opera dilemma

Soap operas and television documentaries are being prevented by outdated regulations from realistically depicting the use of drugs, programme-makers said. **Page 8**

Clinton hits out

The Democratic convention opened in Chicago after a week-end of non-stop parties and a sharp attack by President Clinton on Bob Dole. **Page 9**

Death sentence

A South Korean court sentenced former President Chun Doo Hwan to death on charges of masterminding a coup in 1979 and an army massacre of democracy protesters. **Page 10**

Led's mission

Russia's national security chief, General Aleksandr Lebed, began a long and complex mission to persuade his masters in Moscow that he was ready to approve his peace plan for Chechnya. **Page 10**

China confrontation

A new confrontation between America and China is looming over American intelligence reports that Peking is secretly helping Pakistan to build a factory for medium-range missiles. **Page 11**



A dancer in the big parade at the Notting Hill Carnival, which was watched by hundreds of thousands of people yesterday.

Ringling the changes

The sweeping re-organisation of America's telecommunications industry gathered pace with the \$14.4 billion takeover by WorldCom Inc of MFS Communications. **Page 44**

Tobacco plan

A radical new proposal for legislation is being prepared in Washington that could bring to an abrupt end the avalanche of lawsuits brought against the tobacco industry. **Page 44**

Bonus scheme

Viscount Lifford, a director of Neilson Cobbold, a Liverpool stockbroker, could win a bonus of up to £3.1m. **Page 44**

Lloyd's plan

Lloyd's of London will today make a last ditch effort in a US court to overturn an injunction against its £3.2 billion reconstruction proposals. **Page 44**

Cricket: Pakistan won the final

Test at the Oval by nine wickets, and the series 2-0, after England collapsed to 242 all out. Mushtaq Ahmed took six for 78. **Page 23**

Rugby league

St Helens won the inaugural Super League when they trounced Warrington 66-14. The victory also gave them their first league and cup double for 30 years. **Pages 23, 24**

Football: Wimbledon are preparing

to present plans to the Football Association which would see them becoming Dublin City. **Page 25**

Motor racing: The McLaren team

will be sponsored for the next five years by the German tobacco company Reemtsma after losing its long-standing support from Marlboro. **Page 24**

Playful art

The unpredictable talent of the Mexican artist Gabriel Orozco is the subject of an exhibition at the ICA gallery. **Page 14**

Looking good

At the Edinburgh Festival, the surrealist Catalan spectacle, *L'Esplendïda vergonya del fet mal fet*, presents bold, beautiful images in an otherwise baffling pageant. **Page 14**

Beethoven stars

There was a brand new BBC commission and there was Elgar's Cello Concerto with Truls Mork. But the real wonder of Sunday night's Prom was Beethoven's Fifth. **Page 14**

Reading roundup

Despite the rain, and a poor showing by the Stone Roses, there were a few treasures to be found at this year's Reading Festival. **Page 15**

Sibling society

Day two looks at the commanding eldest child, the mediator piggy-in-the-middle and the different world inhabited by an only child. **Pages 12, 13**

Through the maze

Rod and Marilyn Lindsay explain how they used the clearing system to help their son, Alasdair, to find a university place. **Page 35**

Older and wiser

The number of mature university students is growing but securing a mature-student place is only the first hurdle to clear. **Page 35**

Resolving disputes

Frances Gibb explains what mediation means, and when it can be better than going to court. **Page 37**

Extended aid

A new scheme means people don't have to go to law firms to get good legal advice. **Page 38**

Even if our European partners did

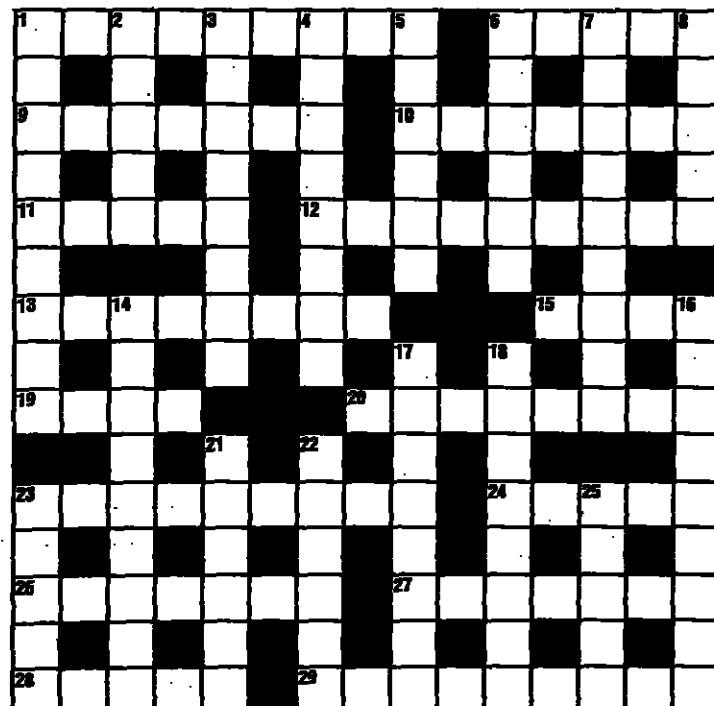
revise the Maastricht criteria, no-one pretends that Italy would be in the front rank of those qualifying for monetary union. Despite the financial sacrifices the government is making, we risk standing still while the European train moves on. **Page 11**

IN THE TIMES

FASHION
Iain R. Webb on how Jeff Banks's brilliant idea continues to put high style on the high street

INTERFACE
Four Canon home office system, worth £1,919, to be won

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,257



- ACROSS**
- Put on topcoat and left hurriedly after royal reception (9).
 - Suitable confinement of men expecting punishment (3,2).
 - New climb just beginning (7).
 - Absolutely determined to take on unresponsive class (4,3).
 - Fibre extracted from thistle-down (5).
 - Tried tax fiddle, having source of earnings to send abroad (9).
 - Appropriate Cockney reference to northern town (8).
 - A little lower on the leg (4).
 - Concise introduction's unavailable in this language (4).
 - Alert entire body of soldiers (3,5).
 - Cover for midnight feast in the dorm? (9).
 - Swift foray to seize money (5).
 - Freeway's opening, and not just for diversion (7).
- DOWN**
- Justify under-five show (9).
 - Take another paper - one in the stand (5).
 - Unseasonal types a danger, in the main (8).
 - The style is right (5).
 - Dive scene in play house (9).
 - A fowl for the picnic? (9).
 - Party wear for fellow entering midnight revels (4,4).
 - Sea-creature has first to be cooked (8).
 - Instructed to come ashore and moor, possibly (6).
 - No need to check half-mile run (3,3).
 - Keep in good shape for suit (5).
 - Gambles producing a pound in profits (5).

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E D E P A E T O
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SUE HIRABOAT
ASSEMBLE PRESET
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North Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire	705
Yorkshire, Humberside	706
North East, Cumbria	707
West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709
East of England	710
South East	711
London, SE England, E Anglia	712
Central England, Channel Isles	713
W Scotland	714
W Scotland & Borders	715
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East Midlands	737
East of England	738
South East	739
London, SE England, E Anglia	740
Central England, Channel Isles	741
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Full moon tomorrow

Full moon 7.50 pm to 8.07 am
Lunar eclipse 8.07 pm to 8.17 am
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